MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

20 MAY 1981

Lebanese Crisis

Military Situation--Citing a Syrian military spokesman, SANA reported that Syrian air defenses downed an Israeli reconnaissance plane over the Syrian coastal region of Latakia. The plane was seen falling into the sea 10 km southwest of Latakia, SANA said. However, Jerusalem radio reported that an IDF spokesman categorically denied the Syrian claim. Voice of Lebanon radio, citing eyewitnesses, reported this morning that the Syrians have moved their missiles in the Al-Biqa' Valley to other unspecified sites. Beirut was calm apart from two clashes between local organizations, Beirut radio reported. The radio said artillery exchanges resumed in the south, and the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio reported that Palestinian artillery responded to Israeli and Christian militia shelling of Arnun, Shaqif, Hasbayyah and areas around An-Nabatiyah. Sidon was shelled in the evening, Beirut radio reported. According to Damascus radio, Israel has continued to reinforce its positions and mass troops along the border strip.

Habib Mission--U.S. Special Envoy Philip Habib held a 2-hour meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin yesterday evening, Jerusalem radio reported. In remarks to journalists after the meeting, broadcast by the radio, Habib said diplomatic efforts and the search for peace are continuing. During the meeting, Habib briefed Begin on his visits to Riyadh and Damascus, the Israeli prime minister disclosed. Begin revealed that he will meet Habib again on 20 May after consulting with the Cabinet. he also praised Habib's "supreme and very sophisticated efforts to reach a peaceful solution." Earlier, Damascus radio reported without comment Habib's meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and his subsequent departure from Syria. Jerusalem radio reported that Prime Minister Begin briefed an extraordinary Cabinet meeting on 20 May on his meeting with Habib. The radio quoted the Cabinet secretary as saying after the session that decisions made today increase the chances for solving the crisis in peaceful ways. Prime Minister Begin's office again denied this morning that there is any U.S. plan to stop or limit Israeli Air Force flights over Lebanon, the radio said.

Begin, Shamir Comments--According to Jerusalem television, Prime Minister Begin said Israel will not go to war against Syria unless it is attacked first. The television also reported that Begin praised Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat for saying that the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty will last despite the crisis with Syria. According to Jerusalem radio, Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said Israel is not willing to wait for weeks or months for resolution of the missile crisis. However, the situation is not a matter of days or hours either, he added. He said time is an important factor because the Syrians are stepping up their preparations for war. The radio also reported that Shamir said the presence of a Libyan unit in Lebanon strengthens the government's position that Israel's security is threatened by the occupation of Lebanon by enemy forces. He added that everything must be done to fight this presence, even by means of an operation in Lebanon.

Syrian Comment--According to Damascus radio, the daily ATH-THAWRAH said today that Syrian missiles have wrecked Israel's delusion and arrogance, deterred its aggression and shown that Syria will neither retreat from, bargain over nor relinquish the Arab nation's rights and dignity. Syria's stand has started yielding gains for the Arabs in their confrontation with Israel and its imperialist supporters, ATH-THAWRAH said. TISHRIN, also reviewed by the radio, said Syria's decision to protect Lebanon's airspace will establish the centrality of the Syrian role, not only in the Arab-Israeli conflict, but also in the affairs of the whole region.

Saudi Comment--In an 18 May commentary, Riyadh radio said Saudi Arabia's reaffirmation of its stand alongside Lebanon and Syria in the current crisis is a pan-Arab duty for the sake of the peace and safety of the Arab lands and people. In a 19 May commentary Riyadh radio said that Saudi Arabia's stand represents strong and effective support for Arab steadfastness and demonstrates that the Arab leadership shoulders its responsibilities.

Libyan Offer--Beirut radio reported that after a meeting with Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, the head of the Libyan Brotherhood Bureau in Beirut, said he had offered Libyan help in defending southern Lebanon and "complete air cover" for the defense of Lebanese territory. Commenting on the meeting to the radio, Al-Wazzan said military assistance to Lebanon must come within the framework of a unified Arab strategy. He welcomed any Arab assistance to provide arms to the Lebanese Army and help rebuild it.

Libya Contacts Arab League--JANA reported that in response to a letter from Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis underlining the absence of a unified Arab strategy for dealing with the Palestinian issue, Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has started serious contacts with the Arab League with a view to forming a common Arab plan for assuming responsibility for the Lebanese situation.

Sterner Tour

Jerusalem radio quoted U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Michael Sterner as saying during his visit to Israel that the fundamental problems of establishing the Sinai force have been resolved and that he believes the force will be in place on schedule. According to the radio, Sterner said the questions of financing and of which countries will participate still have to be settled. MENA later reported Sterner's arrival in Cairo.

Iran

Mediation Group Meets--Tehran radio reported that the first meeting of the joint Iranian-U.S. mediation group dealing with the outstanding issues concerning the freed U.S. hostages was held at the International Court of Justice at The Hague. According to the radio, Iran suggested that the three impartial members of the court to be chosen in accordance with the provisions of the Algerian accord by Algerian nationals.

Ship Released--A Foreign Ministry statement, broadcast by Tehran radio, announced that Iran has ordered the release of the ship seized by the Iranian Navy on 30 April while conducting seismological research on behalf of Kuwait near the Iranian coast. The statement said the ship's release follows a Kuwait undertaking to refrain at present from any new exploration operations in the vicinity of the Iranian continental shelf.

Foreign Ministry Employee Arrested--A Foreign Ministry statement, broadcast by Tehran radio, announced that two men, one of whom is the director general of the Foreign Ministry Consular Affairs Department, have been arrested for attempting to steal classified documents from the ministry. The radio later broadcast a statement from President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr's office denying the report "in the form that it was published" and stating that the documents were taken by a representative of the president's office who had written permission to review them.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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LEBANESE NATIONALISTS MOBILIZE NATIONWIDE

NC190956 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0645 GMT 19 May 81

[Text] The National Movement parties in the south, the north and Mount Lebanon have called on the citizens to join training camps in order to confront the homeland's external and internal enemies. Furthermore, they declared a state of general mobilization in their ranks and adopted a decision to close down the secondary schools, university branches and teachers colleges in the south.

The National Movement command in the south held a meeting. It discussed the military and political situation and the general mobilization operation in the nationalist areas. It approved a number of measures in the political, security, educational and information fields. A statement was issued after the meeting. It reads:

The National Movement command in the south has approved a number of measures which will provide the best means for utilizing human and field potentials to confront the Israeli aggression and the perils of the Phalangist-isolationist plan. It decided to call all the strugglers, whatever their field of work, to join training camps in preparation for the battle to resist the homeland's enemies.

In the same vein, the National Movement command held a meeting with the popular board of education in Sidon and the area surrounding it, during which it was decided to notify the students of the decision to suspend studies in the secondary schools, the university and teachers colleges. The notification will be made through general assemblies to be held as of this morning. The board of education has called on all the nationalist students to join the National Movement training camps in the south. It decided to end the examinations and the administrative activities of the primary and intermediary stages not later than 22 May. It also decided to call on the nationalist teachers for the above-mentioned stages to join the training camps.

The nationalist parties in the Ba'labakk-Al-Hirmil area issued a statement in which they affirmed that what is requiring attention most is the question of defending their existence and future, particularly since the opportunities for achieving political solutions have been lost, and only a comprehensive political and military confrontation remains.

The statement also called on all those committed to the National Movement parties, and all those capable and desiring to carry the banner of defense of the national destiny to join the national confrontation. The statement added that no hindrances should prevent the implementation of this call and that all the students, teachers, employees, workers, peasants and youth must respond to it. The statement called on the merchants to show responsibility under these difficult conditions and to help by preventing any tampering with prices and guaranteeing the citizens' foodstuffs.

The Amal Movement has issued a statement in which it referred to the war-like atmosphere prevailing in the area and called on all to stand as one rank in facing the Israeli enemy. In its statement the AMAL Movement affirmed the need to pay attention to the civil defense instructions that will be distributed in special leaflets.

In Tripoli the nationalist and progressive parties in the north issued a statement calling on the citizens for general mobilization and pointing out that the battle is not far from the north in view of the Phalangist preparations in Jurud al-Batrun. The statement emphasized the responsibility of the Zionist-isolationist alliance in striking the national accord operation and called for the realization of, and preparation for, confronting the imminent dangers. The statement also spoke about the other aspect of the crisis whereby the north is experiencing a deterioration in social and economic conditions because of monopolization and high prices. The statement called on the citizens to be strong fighters. It called on all the departments to pool all the potentials to achieve the steadfastness of the north.

In 'Alayh the Progressive Socialist Party has issued a statement calling on the citizens to send their sons to the training and mobilization camps and to the recruitment office of the party headquarters as of this morning. The statement said: We have provided all the opportunities and possibilities for the achievement of a reconciliation and a political solution, but those who have sold themselves to the devil and thrown themselves in Israel's lap, have frustrated all the opportunities, escalated the situation, exposed all the Lebanese areas to exacerbated danger and directed their attention to our steadfast mountain.

VOP REPORTS ISRAELI TROOP MOVEMENTS NEAR BORDERS

NC191200 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1115 GMT 19 May 81

[Text] Reports from the occupied homeland state that the Zionist enemy has been moving its military forces from the Jordan Valley to the northern area on the border between occupied Palestine and Syria and Lebanon. The reports said that Zionist military forces were being moved at night by military trains from Sinai and southern occupied Palestine to Jerusalem and then to Jericho and the Al-Aghwar area via a special military route to northern occupied Palestine.

QADDUMI TO LEAD PLO DELEGATION TO TUNIS MEETING

NC200826 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0645 GMT 20 May 81

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee held a lengthy meeting yesterday under Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces. During the meeting, which lasted 7 and 1/2 hours, the Executive Committee discussed the political situation and the current developments on the local, Arab and international levels. The committee decided that the PLO delegation to the Arab foreign ministers meeting to be held in Tunis on 22 May will be headed by Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department.

The PLO Executive Committee also reviewed the outcome of the visits and tours that Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar and other Palestinian leaders have made to various Arab capitals. The Executive Committee also reviewed the military situation in southern Lebanon, the continuing Israeli military escalation in the air, at sea and on the ground against the Lebanese and Palestinian people and the Israeli military concentrations in the border strip area.

The PLO Executive Committee also discussed the situation in the occupied territory and the heroic stand of our steadfast people against the Israeli occupation. It also discussed a number of administrative and organizational issues and adopted a number of decisions regarding these issues. The Executive Committee created new departments, including an economic department, a refugee affairs department and a chairmanship affairs department [da'irat shu'un ar-ri'asah].

The PLO Executive Committee will resume its meeting this morning to discuss and adopt decisions on the other items on its agenda.

EMERGENCY CONFERENCE IN TUNIS CONFIRMED FOR 22 MAY

JN191454 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1440 GMT 19 May 81

[Text] Manama, 19 May (GNA)--Gulf political sources told the GULF NEWS AGENCY today that during the last 24 hours, consultations were held among the Gulf states on the date for the convocation of the Arab foreign ministers' emergency conference, which was proposed to be held in Tunis next Friday. These sources announced that during these high-level consultations, the Gulf states agreed to attend the emergency meeting on Friday.

The agency has learned that the meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council foreign ministers will be held at its fixed date and place in Abu Dhabi on Saturday.

Discussions Continue

JN200740 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0715 GMT 20 May 81

[Text] Tunis--The Arab League General Secretariat is continuing its contacts with the Arab capitals to fix the date and venue of the Arab foreign ministers emergency meeting called for by Algeria and the PLO. It is to be recalled that the meeting, which is expected to be held in Tunis, will discuss the Israeli threats against Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinian resistance. It will also discuss the means to confront these threats.

VOP PRAISES LIBYAN WITHDRAWAL OF FORCES FROM CHAD

JN181831 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1600 GMT 18 May 81

[From "With the Events" program]

[Text] At this current stage of the Arab issue, it seems natural--even necessary--for everyone to divert their attention, capabilities and potentials toward the major hotbed of conflict and the hot link in the Arab battle of confrontation with imperialism and Zionism.

This battle is now being waged by the Palestinian revolution, Syria and the Lebanese National Movement. Indeed, these forces have no alternative but to determinedly, firmly and persistently wage such a battle, as they are doing now. These forces are naturally not waging this conflict in their own interest or for specific purposes. Rather, history and circumstances behoove these forces to be the vanguards defending Arab existence and all Arab interests. However, it is the result of the battle which will naturally define the region and draw its broad lines and interests. Such a result will depend on the gains or losses of the Arab side in the battle.

Awareness of such an obvious result will make everyone use all their potentials in this battle without any hesitation. However, this makes it necessary for all such potentials to be free from any burdens that might weigh them down and from any other peripheral battles that both exhaust them and remove them from the real, major battle being waged in the Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese arena. Along this path the Palestinian attempts proceeded to rally and unite the ranks, attempts manifested by the recent Palestinian move led by Brother Abu'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. Among the results of this move was an agreement in principle by several Arab states to convene a conference of Arab foreign ministers and reduce the media campaigns among several Arab states. Also along this path the recent Libyan step proceeded when it was decided to close up the Chadian wound, stop exhausting the Libyan forces--which the imperialist agents were seeking to achieve in Chad--and remove this card from the hands of those agents and imperialism which were exploiting it to erupt the situation in the region and paralyze this region's powers in an attempt to prevent these powers from participating in the major battle against Zionism and from bolstering the central Arab issue--the Palestinian issue.

President al-Qadhdhafi's [title as heard] announcement yesterday on the withdrawal of Libyan forces from Chad and these forces' continued and gradual withdrawal to allow the formation of Chadian national units to replace these forces, in addition to the current OAU chairman's acceptance of this, represent the closure of a gate which imperialism and its agents were hoping to use in order to exploit and preoccupy the Arab forces in the region.

Finally, we would like to express the hope that this would be a beginning and an example for all to follow in order to gear all potentials toward the Arabs' first battle against Zionism and imperialism and bolster the primary issue--Palestine--thus proceeding from facts which are obvious in light of experiences, namely, that when the Arabs settle their major contradiction with Zionism they will find little difficulty in settling their secondary problems, however great and difficult such problems may be.

SAUDI ARABIA

KUWAITI PAPER CITED ON SAUDI AID TO FATAH

LD191228 Kuwait KUNA in English 1101 GMT 19 May 81

[Text] Kuwait, 19 May (KUNA)--A local newspaper reported Tuesday that Saudi Arabia has donated 20 million dollars to Fatah commando group to help the organisation overcome its financial problems. Quoting a [word indistinct] Fatah official, AL -ANBA said the Saudi Government has also provided the organisation led by Yasir 'Arafat with other supplies. The nature and value of these supplies were not disclosed. Fatah representative in Saudi Arabia Rafiq an-Natshah thanked Saudi Arabia last week for its generous assistance but did not disclose the size of the contribution.

RIYADH COMMENTARIES REAFFIRM SUPPORT OF SYRIA

18 May Commentary

LD191454 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 May 81

[Husayn al-Askari commentary]

[Text] The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has reaffirmed that it stands by Lebanon against the Zionist enemy's attacks, and its support for the legal authority and the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF]. It has also reaffirmed that it stands by fraternal Syria in confronting any aggression against Syria's sovereignty, independence and the safety of its territory.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's reaffirmation of its vanguard role in the Arab struggle arena does not in actual fact constitute a surprise; it only reestablishes a fact--the kingdom, its leadership and people, sincerely and resolutely stands by right and justice. The suspect Israeli move to strike at the Arab struggle and the enemy's attempt to deal individually with Lebanon and then Syria in order to simplify his shattering of the Arab front, which is holding fast against his challenges, is a lost cause in which the enemy's calculatiolns are not precise. The enemy deliberately created, and is still creating, incidents in order to cover up his ferocious attack on Lebanon's land and people and his attempt to link this attack to the enemy's lost solution regarding the amputated peace. He tried to widen the scope of his attack by provoking the ADF, which is operating in Lebanon under the latter's legal authority, by attacking some of the positions of this force in an attempt to kindle the flames of war in an aim to drag other parties into the battle.

The attitude of sister Syria has been that of a brave response to the call of national duty, which became inevitable as a result of the dangerous escalation of events by Israel--a method which Israel arrogantly pursued. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's reaffirmation of its role and its stand in support of Lebanon and Syria is a pan-Arab duty imposed by the requirements of safeguarding the safety and peace of the Arab individual, the land and people. Here, the Saudi role truthfully and clearly emerges--the role which the Arab nation is confident of, as the Arab nation knows full well the extent of the commitment of the Saudi leadership and the latter's sacrifice for protecting the Arab right which Israel has tried by every method to deny, but has been incapable of achieving for one reason: The Arab nation is facing challenges as one body which the state of wrong [against right] cannot defeat.

19 May Commentary

LD200712 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 May 81

[Husayn al-Askari commentary]

[Text] The Arab states have affirmed their stand by Lebanon and Syria in the face of the Israeli challenge and the enemy's attempt to escalate the tense situation to create the circumstances that consolidate the enemy's persistence in his aggression on Lebanon.

Observers at both Arab and international levels agree that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's stand by the brothers in Lebanon and Syria represents a strong and effective support for Arab steadfastness in confronting the Israeli challenge, in view of the good reputation the kingdom enjoys and its relevant opinion, which is met by acceptance and contentment by brothers and friends alike. This reassures Arab citizens of the fact that the Arab leaderships shoulder their responsibilities with full sincerity and loyalty at this extremely grave stage and at any time or place.

Israel's (?unanticipated) experiment stems from an attempt to test the capability of the Arab nation to face the Israeli challenge, representing not so much a new stage as much as the enemy's desire to wage a war which might be a limited one. With the aim of being able to impose formulae which the Arabs have so far rejected, and which they might accept in the event of success by the Israeli attack on Lebanon and Syria; this after the Israelis have come to realize that all their attempts have failed to exacerbate the Lebanese tragedy and to keep the Lebanese people busy fighting among themselves.

In such a case it is necessary to find an alternative battle, whose arena is Lebanon and Syria, through the enemy's provocation of the Arab Deterrent Forces. But the steadfastness of Lebanon and Syria, with the entire Arab nation behind them, has made the Israeli enemy miss the opportunity. The enemy has moved from the position of making threats and intimidation to the position of reconsideration as he has realized that the Arab nation did not and would not give him the opportunity for aggression against any part of Arab territory under the cover of feeble excuses, and that the enemy's demand that he alone has sovereignty over Lebanese skies is a frantic demand which no norm or law endorses.

Despite all this, a state of cautious expectation still hangs over the situation which, it seems, can move out of the circle of danger if the willfulness and (?defiance) of the Israeli enemy are checked in the interest of security and peace in the region, or rather, the peace of all mankind.

EUROPEAN INITIATIVE VIEWED 'OPTIMISTICALLY'

LD171635 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 May 81

[Text] The foreign minister, His Royal Highness Sa'ud al-Faysal, said that what the Middle East required from the European initiative is the definition of principles and the means of implementation in light of the Venice deleclaration. He described as constructive the direction taken by the European countries in viewing the Palestine problem as the main axis of the Middle East problem. His royal highess said in a statement published by 'UKAZ today that we optimistically view the Western countries' new steps which, God willing, will lead to the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination. His royal highness denied that there was a Saudi attitude or another Arab attitude in relation to the Middle East problem, but said that there was a common Arab stance which had been adopted by the Baghdad summit and confirmed by the Tunis summit.

OMAN

KING HUSAYN VISITS MUSCAT, DEPARTS 20 MAY

JN200922 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0915 GMT 20 May 81

[Excerpt] Muscat, 20 May (GNA)--King Husayn of Jordan left Muscat this morning at the end of a 2-day official visit to Oman. King Husayn was seen off by Sultan Qabus and top Omani officials. While in Muscat King Husayn and Sultan Qabus discussed the current Arab situation, issues of mutual interest and bilateral relations.

UAE

PRESIDENT HOLDS TALKS WITH KING HUSAYN 19 MAY

GF191319 Dubayy Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 May 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi--President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan began official talks with his brother King Husayn of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in a tete-a-tete meeting held at Al-Mushrif Palace at 1415 today.

At the end of the meeting an official source said that the two leaders had reviewed comprehensively all issues of mutual interest on both the Arab and international levels. These were primarily current Arab developments, particularly the situation in Lebanon and repeated Israeli threats to the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples, as well as the strengthening of bilateral relations and the development of bilateral cooperation in various fields.

The UAE president hosted a luncheon at Al-Mushrif Palace in honor of the Jordanian monarch and the delegation accompanying him. Gen Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, deputy commander in chief of the armed forces, shaykhs and ministers attended.

His Majesty King Husayn left for Muscat today at the end of his short visit to the UAE. His majesty was seen off by President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, Armed Forces Deputy Commander in Chief Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, shaykhs, ministers, heads of diplomatic missions, senior military and civilian officials and Jordanian Embassy staff members.

YAR

TARIQ 'AZIZ DELIVERS MESSAGE FROM SADDAM HUSAYN

JN162152 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 May 81

[Text] Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, received at his headquarters office at 2000 today Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, who is currently visiting the republic. 'Aziz conveyed to the brother leader president an oral message from his brother His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq. The meeting was attended by Hsan Makki, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Brother 'Ali Lutfi ath-Thawr, minister of foreign affairs; and his excellency the Iraqi ambassador in San'a'.

Talks Held 17 May

JN171328 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 May 81

[Text] Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, received at his headquarters office at 1200 today Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and deputy prime minister of the Iraqi Republic, who is currently visiting the YAR. They reviewed aspects of cooperation between the two fraternal countries in all fields.

SABA' NEWS AGENCY has learned that brother leader President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih gave a message to Tariq 'Aziz for his brother, His Excellency Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, in response to the message which he received yesterday. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Brother 'Ali Lutfi ath-Thawr and his excellency the Iraqi ambassador in San'a'.

Prime Minister 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani received Tariq 'Aziz this morning. They reviewed bilateral relations and the progress of work on the development projects in the YAR financed by the Iraqi Republic. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Brother 'Ali Lutfi ath-Thawr.

PRESIDENT SALIH TELEPHONES SYRIA'S AL-ASAD

JN161837 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 May 81

[Text] Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, this evening telephoned his brother President Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, when the brother leader president became acquainted with the latest developments in the situation in southern Lebanon and the continued aggressions of the Zionist enemy.

In his phone call to President Hafiz al-Asad, the brother president stressed the YAR leadership's, government's and people's support of their brothers in both the fraternal Arab countries of Syria and Lebanon, their support for the just Palestinian cause and the readiness of the YAR with its human and material capabilities to stand with the Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese people in the same trench against the Israeli threats, and with any Arab country faced with aggression.

STERNER RETURNS TO CAIRO FOR SINAI FORCE TALKS

NC191916 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1906 GMT 19 May 81

[Text] Cairo, 19 May (MENA)--Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Michael Sterner arrived in Cairo from Israel today aboard a private plane. Sterner will resume with Egyptian officials the discussions on the formation of the multinational force that will take up supervisory duties in the Sinai after the final Israeli withdrawal.

SECURITY COUNCIL SAID UNABLE TO FORM SINAI FORCE

NC191558 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 May 81

[Text] The minister of state for foreign affairs, Dr Butrus Ghali, has announced that the Security Council is unable to set up a UN emergency force for deployment in the Sinai. He also said:

[Begin recording] This is either because some states are opposed to it as a result of the influence of the Arab rejectionists or because a big power in the Security Council would veto the establishment of such a UN force. Accordingly, we now have definite proof that it is impossible at present to form a UN emergency force. This perhaps has encouraged us to set up a force or discuss with the United States the question of setting up a multinational force. [end recording]

The minister of state for foreign affairs added that in view of the Security Council's position on the issue of a Sinai force, we are holding consultations with the United States to set up a multinational force for deployment in the Sinai to supervise the final withdrawal of the Israeli forces from all of the Sinai.

The Foreign Ministry had sent a letter to the Security Council chairman asking him to hold consultations with the Security Council members to learn their views on the question of forming a UN force for the Sinai. The Security Council chairman has informed Egypt's UN delegate that his consultations revealed that the formation of such a force is not possible at present.

COMMENTARY BLAMES SYRIA-ISRAEL CRISIS ON USSR

NC161550 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 May 81

[Bahiyy ad-Din commentary: "The Soviet Trap and the Policy of Brinkmanship"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig has described the situation in Lebanon as extremely delicate and fraught with grave implications. Certainly the situation has reached the peak of tension, and any incalculable action will detonate the situation in the Middle East. To indicate the gravity of the situation, it suffices to read the press reports about Soviet and U.S. naval units sailing to this dangerous area. Regardless of any other ramifications, the mere fact that the Soviet Union and the United States have moved their naval strike forces toward the Lebanese coast means that what we had warned of has actually occurred. Thus Lebanon has become a confrontation area between the two superpowers.

The gravity of turning the Lebanese crisis into a bargaining card between this and that party in the game of nations demonstrates that the matter has gotten out of the hands of the parties concerned in the area. Now that the question is between Moscow and Washington we must understand that the Syrian missile crisis, which made the situation explosive, did not stem from the development of events but was deliberately aimed to create a tense situation. The hands of Moscow are behind the deployment of the missiles in the Al-Biqa' plain because it realized that Israel will not keep silent about this serious development in the red line agreements between Syria and Israel. Thus Moscow wanted to exacerbate the situation in order to push Israel to the point of confronting Syria, because an eruption would torpedo the entire situation in the Middle East, particularly since Menahem Begin is seeking any sign to raise his popularity in the election campaign.

Moscow's calculations are based on two things: The first is that if Israel tried to strike at the missile bases it may sustain some losses in its air force, a matter that would show Syria as an Arab hero defending the Arab struggle. The second is that if Syria was exposed to a strike by Israel it would look like a martyr to certain Arabs, and then the entire Arab world must stand by. Moscow and Damascus would then attribute the harm done to Syria to Camp David. These, in short, are Moscow's calculations or pushing Syria to deploy its missiles in Al-Biqa'.

Naturally, the United States, which is carefully watching the situation, cannot be deluded by Moscow's plans. We saw that the U.S. administration hastened to send a personal envoy of President Reagan to discuss the situation with the parties concerned without being restricted to a specific time for his mission. The U.S. administration gave the envoy the freedom to determine his own shuttles in order to perform his mission.

The U.S. administration realizes the dimensions of the trap set for it by the Soviets in the Middle East. Washington knows that any rash Israeli action of launching an attack on the Syrian missile bases in Lebanon will harm Israel internationally without affecting Syria. At the same time, any Israeli military action will harm U.S. interests. The United States also realizes that a limited or overall confrontation between Syria and Israel means that the Arab world will forego all its peripheral differences and stand by Syria. This would project the Soviet Union on the theater of events after its role was diminished following the Egyptian peace initiative. What is more important is that if Israel carries out its threats against Syria, it will affirm that the Israeli danger is the only direct danger against the Arab nation and the Gulf area. This is contrary to what the U.S. administration maintains, that Soviet infiltration is the most serious danger facing the Arab people. Thus the U.S. strategy will be dealt a coup de grace by its closest allies.

For all of this we maintain that the possibilities of a confrontation between Israel and Syria will continue to exist only within the framework of the cold war, the features of which have begun to take shape between Washington and Moscow. At present the Soviet Union is pursuing the policy of brinkmanship that Dulles adopted in the late 1950's.

The Arab people must stand firmly against all of Syria's actions, that will drag the Arab nation into the fire of the cold war, a cold war in which the Arabs have no interest.

OCTOBER EDITOR CRITICIZES SARKIS, PALESTINIANS

NC161420 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0850 GMT 16 May 81

[Text] Cairo, 16 May (MENA)--In his weekly article in Sunday's edition of OCTOBER magazine, Chief Editor Anis Mansur criticizes Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis. He says that at no time has Sarkis acted like a president and that despite the fact that the Riyadh summit appointed him commander of the Syrian deterrent forces, he has not exercised [words indistinct].

Anis Mansur says that the Lebanese president has done nothing for the Maronites in Lebanon even though he is a Maronite. The Lebanese Maronites are now under Israel's protection, at their request and with his approval. The entire border between Israel and the territory Sa'd Haddad has carved out in Lebanon has been removed. The writer notes that the aim is to make this Christian state a country for the Christians of Lebanon, Syria and Egypt. He states that is why a number of Egyptian Copts are fighting alongside Sa'd Haddad and the Phalangists.

Anis Mansur says that the Lebanese themselves must solve their problem, adding that the Lebanese have always said that there must be a Lebanese solution to their problem and not a Syria, Arab or international solution. The writer says that in order to bring about such a solution, Lebanon must have a president and the Syrian and Israeli forces must leave Lebanon, because neither Syria nor Israel has any rights in Lebanon.

The Lebanese Army and security forces must restore security in the country. If the Lebanese Army is incapable of doing this--and in fact it is incapable--we must send UN forces to help it in this difficult task.

Anis Mansur continues: The Arab states must stop their financial support of the Arab Deterrent Forces in order to compel the Syrian forces to leave Lebanon. If the Arab states stop their support, the defeated Syrian forces will return to Syria to face the people, whose first action will be to topple the despotic leadership of President Al-Asad and the ruling minority.

In his article headlined "The One Clear Fact," Anis Mansur continues and says: The Syrian leaders crushed the Palestinian people, the Arabs and the Palestinian cause in order to achieve their ulterior motives, which have nothing to do with the Palestinian cause either directly or indirectly. Anis Mansur adds: The Syrian president and King Husayn have attempted to crush the Palestinians and the Gulf states have given their blessings to this physical liquidation, because they believe that there is no solution to the Palestinian question and there will be no Palestinian state. In order to abort the establishment of a Palestinian state, President Al-Asad and King Husayn have tried to exterminate the Palestinian people so they cannot establish their own state.

Anis Mansur says: The solution is for the Palestinian people to take the issue into their own hands. Addressing the Palestinians, Mansur says: Defend yourselves and know your enemy, for it is not Israel alone. Your archenemies are those who raise their voice louder in defending you. The solution is clear and the course to follow is clear. There will be no solution of the Palestinian issue if you do not sit and talk with Israel. Sit with Israel and disagree on everything. Those who claim that they alone are capable of resolving your issue are completely incapable of resolving their own domestic and foreign issues. Syria is trying to resolve your issue in Lebanon, Libya is trying to resolve it in Chad and Iraq is trying to resolve it in Iran.

AS-SADAT ADDRESSES YOUTHS ON FRANCE, OPPOSITION

NC151816 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1655 GMT 15 May 81

[Text] Al-Qanatir al-Khayriyah, 5 May (MENA)--President Anwar as-Sadat today met, as is usual every week after Friday prayers, with a group of Egyptian youths in Al-Qanatir al-Khayriyah. In a statement he made on what took place during this meeting, the minister of state for the presidency and for culture and information, Mansur Hasan, said that President as-Sadat began his speech by answering the questions posed by the youths on the issues of the opposition and Egyptian-French relations in the wake of the election of President Francois Mitterrand. The minister said that the president affirmed the strong relations that exist between the Egyptian and French peoples. His excellency said that Egypt welcomes President Mitterrand and hopes that he would use his long political record to strengthen these relations between the two countries in the light of Egypt's role in the area, the clarity of its political line and the fact that it is the country which enjoys security and stability in the Middle East.

The president then spoke about [words indistinct] the government in Egypt. He said that his experience has convinced him that the mistakes of a democracy in one generation do not equal the mistakes of a dictatorship in one hour. [Words indistinct] the president had asked for the establishment of opposition in Egypt to serve as a support for the democratic process, which [word indistinct] the achievement of the country's interests.

The president said that the activity [of the opposition] which took place during past years proved that there is no opposition in Egypt but, rather, an attempt to return to the prerevolution methods and to slander the national achievements. The president pointed out that the opposition tried to describe his talk about the wrong activity as a prelude to the abolition of (?the opposition). His excellency affirmed that were this to happen it would show lack of seriousness in sound [democratic] exercise and that this exercise will be the basis in the coming stage and will indicate the method of future opposition on the basis of actions and not decisions.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 341

JN191651 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 19 May 81

[Text] Baghdad, 19 May (INA)--The Iraqi Armed Forces continue to inflict human and material losses on the Persian enemy. Communique No 341 issued by the Armed Forces General Command this evening said that during the last 24 hours the Iraqi forces inflicted new losses on the Persian enemy. These included 1 fighter plane, 38 dead, 2 infantry positions, 2 armored personnel carriers, 4 field guns, 1 mortar, 7 vehicles, 4 observation posts and 8 ammunition stockpiles. The communique added that a forward Iraqi patrol raided Persian enemy positions in the Dezful region, destroyed two vehicles and seized one mortar. The patrol returned safely to base. The text of the communique is as follows:

Communique No 341 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our victorious armed forces continued their activities in the operational sectors yesterday evening and today. The results follow:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Our units hit enemy concentrations opposite our positions in the Nowsud region and forced them to flee after killing 16. Our units destroyed one observation post and one ammunition stockpile in the same region.
B. Three were killed and three ammunition stockpiles were destroyed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region.
C. One was killed in the Gilan-e Gharb region.
D. One ammunition stockpile was destroyed in the Sumar region.
E. Four were killed and one vehicle was destroyed in the Mehran region.
F. A patrol belonging to our forward units raided enemy positions in the Dezful region and destroyed two vehicles and seized one mortar intact before returning safely to base. Our units also destroyed one vehicle laden with ammunition and one observation post in the same region.
G. Our units hit hard enemy concentrations in the Shush region, killing seven and destroying two infantry positions, one armored personnel carrier, four field guns, two vehicles, one observation post and two ammunition stockpiles.
H. One armored personnel carrier, one vehicle and one excavator were destroyed in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region.
I. Seven were killed and one observation post and one ammunition stockpile were destroyed in the Abadan region.
J. Our field resistance fire shot down an enemy fighter plane in the southern sector of the battlefield yesterday afternoon.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 38 dead, 2 infantry positions, 2 armored personnel carriers, 4 field guns, 1 mortar, 7 vehicles, 1 excavator, 4 observation posts, 8 ammunition stockpiles and 1 fighter plane.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: Four martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: One tank, one personnel carrier, three vehicles and one rocket launcher were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 19 May 1981

AZERI COMMENT ACCUSES IRAN OF DISTORTING LOSSES

GF180623 Baghdad International Service in Azeri 1900 GMT 17 May 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Dear listeners: It will be recalled that the chief of the Iraqi General Staff's office and other publicity departments affiliated with it have given a prompt and correct account of the victory that was achieved at Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, the legend that was written by the bravery and heroism of Iraqi troops during the clash and the loss the enemy suffered on this battlefield.

Iraq's military communiques since the beginning of the war have gained the respect of people throughout the world because of their careful reporting on developments. However, the Iranian general staff's office has been endeavoring to mislead the world by issuing communiques that conflict with facts. It will be recalled that two prominent Iranian leaders reacted differently with regard to the defeat Iran suffered at Sar-e Pol-e Zahab. The conflicting views of these two leaders have confirmed that the Iranian military communiques are devoid of truth. With regard to the clash at Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, General Fallahi, the acting chief of the Joint Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, said: "The Iraqis have occupied more Iranian territory. We have lost many of our best troops at Sar-e Pol-e Zahab." Regardless of what General Fallahi said, Bani-Sadr, the commander in chief of the Iranian Armed Forces, has claimed that the Iraqi troops suffered a great loss in terms of men and materiel. He also summed up Iranian losses as 102 dead, 550 wounded and 51 captured. The irony is that he failed to remember the gains of the Iraqi Armed Forces and the new areas they occupied.

It is common knowledge that Bani-Sadr has lied about Iranian losses at Sar-e Pol-e Zahab. The Iraqi military communiques confirming the Iraqi Army's occupation of new areas, the capture of five more towns and the great number of Iranian dead and wounded have shown that Bani-Sadr's statements are untrue and unfounded.

We now ask Bani-Sadr and Raja'i, who have currently moved to liberate Qasr-e Shirin, if the figures they have given--102 dead, 550 wounded and 51 captured--constitute the actual loss Iran has suffered?

Why do you insist on prolonging the war? Apart from the defeats you have suffered, you have gained nothing during the past 9 months. When will your defeats make your empty heads realize the true facts? International imperialism and Zionism are undoubtedly behind your hostile (?stand), which is to occupy Iraq. Nevertheless, the [words indistinct] of Iraq has organized an invincible army of youths, men and women to defend the Iraqi people's legal rights. Under the leadership of our national hero, Saddam Husayn, this army has become an invincible force defending Iraq's revolution. Therefore, neither you nor your patrons will be able to defeat Iraq. The Bani-Sadrs and the Fallahis will undoubtedly meet with more and greater losses if they do not abandon their stubborn stands.

PRESIDENT HUSAYN RECEIVES RELIGIOUS LEADERS

JN181755 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 May 81

[Text] Staff Marshal Saddam Husayn, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, has stated that the Arab nation possesses enough traits to make it not only a nation capable of carrying the sword but also a nation which has the wisdom to enable it to carry the Muslim banner and message to the four corners of the world. In a speech he made receiving the Muslim clergy and ulema in the governorates of An-Najaf and Karbala' this morning, President Saddam Husayn said: God, praise be to him, has chosen the Arab nation to propagate Islam not because the problems he dealt with in the Koran were more widespread among the Arabs than among peoples from other nations, as the Shu'ubists attempt to explain, but because of the special characteristics of the Arab nation.

Therefore, we find that all the nations which have embraced Islam have a special conception concerning the Arabs. We have never read or heard about an Islamic nation hating the Arabs and harboring anti-Arab movements except Persia. The president added: Over the centuries, Persia has produced movements with the aim of encroaching on the Arab nation. This makes Persia a uniquely bad and negative nation as far as Muslim nations are concerned.

Addressing the men of religion, the president said: In the initiatives you have taken and in your utterances, you have shown your genuine Iraqi character, your Arab conscience and your belief in supreme values because the battle with the Iranian leaders is so complicated that it requires, perhaps not so much special understanding as psychological readiness in order to be understood in the same depth as you have understood it and as you have expressed yourselves on all occasions.

UGANDAN VICE PRESIDENT, DELEGATION ARRIVE

Reception With Ma'ruf

JN181233 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 May 81

[Text] Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf has received Ugandan Vice President Paulo Muwanga and his delegation. Ma'ruf welcomed the Ugandan vice president, stressing the importance of the exchange of visits in promoting bilateral relations and in developing Arab-African relations. The two sides discussed cooperation between Iraq and Uganda, the means to develop this cooperation, Arab-African relations and the means to bolster the independent course of the Nonaligned Movement, as well as other international issues of mutual interest.

Ma'ruf explained the history of Iraq's just battle against the racist Persian enemy, asserting Iraq's constant readiness from its position of capability to end the war once the Persian regime recognizes our full rights. The vice president also reiterated Iraq's readiness to cooperate with the various international bodies endeavoring to solve the conflict peacefully.

Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf touched on the repeated Zionist attacks on the Palestinian people and Lebanon, asserting that these attacks are menacing the area's security and peace. He reaffirmed Iraq's support for the Palestinian revolution.

The Ugandan vice president expressed his complete understanding of the nature and dimensions of Iraq's just war, praising Iraq's efforts to end the war by peaceful means, to build good-neighbor relations and to refrain from intervening in the domestic affairs of the other side. He pointed out that Uganda is pursuing this same policy with its neighboring countries.

The meeting was attended by Ugandan chief of staff (Aweti) Ojok, several Ugandan officials and the Ugandan ambassador in Baghdad.

Ministers Meet

JN181056 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1035 GMT 18 May 81

[Text] Baghdad, 18 May (INA)--Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, Revolution Command Council member and oil minister, met here today with Akena P'ojok, Ugandan power and communication minister. They discussed oil relations, the means to bolster these relations and the possibility of providing Uganda with Iraqi experts and technology in the fields of industry and oil in the service of their mutual interests.

The meeting was attended by the director general of the foreign investments and relations department at the Oil Ministry and the Ugandan charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Delegation Departs Baghdad

JN191629 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1615 GMT 19 May 81

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 19 May (INA)--Ugandan Vice President Paulo Muwanga and his delegation left Baghdad this evening at the end of a 3-day state visit to Iraq.

TRANSPORT MINISTER RECEIVES BULGARIAN COUNTERPART

JN181354 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 May 81

[Text] Sa'dun Ghaydan, Revolution Command Council member and minister of cummunications and transport, today received Stamen Stamenov, deputy minister of the Bulgarian Ministry of Transportation, and the delegation accompanying him.

The two sides discussed the various aspects of cooperation between Iraq and Bulgaria, particularly in the sphere of communications and transport, the exchange of expertise in these spheres, the possibility of participation by the specialized Bulgarian institutions in the implementation of some of the projects in the sphere of transportation in Iraq and the training of Iraqi cadres.

The meeting was attended by the two under secretaries of the Ministry of Communications and Transport.

BA'TH PARTY, SANDINIST FRONT DELEGATIONS MEET

JN161559 Baghdad INA in English 1455 GMT 16 May 81

[Text] Baghdad, 16 May (INA)--Delegations from the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party (ASBP) and the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) held here today talks to consolidate relations between them.

The ASBP delegation, led by director of the party's foreign relations bureau, 'Abd al-Karim Jihad, explained during the meeting details of the Iraq-Iran war and the backgound of the Arab-Persian conflict.

The political secretary of the FSLN, Ramon Ernesto Modrang, highly assessed the attitudes of the ASBP towards the struggle of the Nicaraguan people against imperialism during the revolution and after its triumph.

He also explained the current circumstances passed by Nicaragua and its struggle for achieving welfare and stability.

The FSLN delegation arrived here last thursday on a visit to Iraq at the invitation of the ASBP's pan-Arab leadership.

AL-ASAD REGIME ATTACKED FOR TUDMUR PRISON MASSACRE

JN191501 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 May 81

[Excerpts] The committee in defense of freedoms and political prisoners in Syria has stressed that the traces of the Tudmur prison massacre, which was perpetrated by the defense squads of Hafiz al-Asad's regime last June, cannot be wiped out merely by mass burial of the victims.

In this month's issue of its periodical AL-MINBAR, which was dedicated to the Tudmur massacre, the committee said that the martyrs' blood and the curse of crime will continue to chase the killers until the Syrian people get the chance to pass their just punishment against the killers.

The committee called on the United Nations, the Arab League and the international organizations that are concerned with human rights and the free strugglers in the world to quickly interfere in order to stop the massacres perpetrated by the Damascus rulers, to expose the rulers' terrorist policy before the international rostrums, to acquaint the world public with these crimes and to call for these rulers to be tried as international criminals.

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL FRONT TO ESCALATE STRUGGLE

JN181946 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Surani Kurdish 1530 GMT 18 May 81

[Text] The Secretariat of the Iraqi Democratic National Front held a meeting from 25-26 March 1981 and discussed the political situation. The Secretariat then adopted several decisions, including one to form committees for the front in the provinces of As-Sulaymaniyah, Kirkuk, Irbil, Dahuk and Mosul. The Secretariat also named the members of these committees and set up the date and the place of their meetings.

In accordance with those decisions, the first branch of our party announced that the Democratic National Front's committee in Dahuk and Mosul had met in the last few days in the presence of members representing our party and the Iraqi Communist Party. They discussed the situation in the area and adopted several decisions that will further bolster our organizational action and the joint struggle and will further escalate the various forms of the armed and political struggle.

Long live the Iraqi Democratic National Front.

AD-DUSTUR WELCOMES TUNIS ARAB LEAGUE MEETING

JN 00834 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 May 81 p 1, 15

Editorial: "The Tunis Meeting and the Required Arab Role"]

[Text] The invitation to hold a meeting of the Arab League Council is in fact a positive step in the practical direction of treating the Lebanese crisis within the Arab context. This invitation received the response it deserved for confronting the dangers resulting from Israel's continued attempts to explode the situation in Lebanon and the whole area.

Events are unfolding with incredible speed as a result of the Israeli threats and hints at war aimed at exploiting the missile crisis it provoked to justify its continued attack on Lebanese territory, its repeated attacks on the Palestinian revolution and its designs on occupying southern Lebanon.

Moreover, the laxity that has governed Arab relations recently makes the meeting of Arab foreign ministers a good initiative. We cannot but hope that it will constitute a basis for Arab coordination that will not only deal with the Lebanese crisis but also become the base for a serious, sincere effort to mend the rift among brothers and bring back cohesion to Arab ranks in order to confront the serious circumstances.

Returning to the beginning of the Lebanese crisis, we find that there was an Arab presence--whether by means of the Cairo and Riyadh summits to regulate relations between the Lebanese and Palestinians or by actual participation in the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF]--which was entrusted with the task of ending the internal crisis through achieving detente among all parties in the Lebanese arena.

Nevertheless, the picture soon changed. The Arab presence began to retreat politically and militarily. The Arab forces participating in the ADF were withdrawn and the whole issue was limited to financial support for Syria, which was entrusted with settling the Lebanese situation.

We must admit frankly that the Syrian role was unsuccessful in carrying out its task. That role even came to be rejected by some Lebanese factions. Israel took advantage of the situation and of the absence of an effective Arab stand and found a Lebanese side willing to collaborate with it. This side is represented by the renegade Maj Sa'd Haddad. Israel also found means of cooperating with the Phalangists, not merely to get the Syrians out of Lebanon but to attack the Palestinian resistance in isolation and attempt to liquidate it as a prelude to liquidating the Palestine cause.

Israel is now trying to exploit the missile crisis it provoked to impose its presence on the Lebanese arena and to attempt to set the whole region ablaze. This has created an auspicious atmosphere for outside intervention, which threatens to internationalize the Lebanese crisis. This is made clear by the U.S.-Soviet consultations and attempts to contain the crisis and prevent the situation from exploding in Lebanon and the whole region.

It is not a remote possibility that Israel will occupy southern Lebanon, wage war against the Palestinian revolution and then make its withdrawal from Lebanese territory conditional on the withdrawal of the Syrian missiles from Al-Biqa'.

Faced with these serious developments and Menahem Begin's threats that the time has come to make the appropriate decisions, the Arab foreign ministers are expected to take effective practical steps to defuse the situation and prevent the internationalization of the Lebanese crisis.

These steps should include:

1. Arabization of the ADF by including in them appropriate Arab forces. This would relieve Syria of its heavy burdens and enable the Lebanese factions opposed to the Syrian presence to return to the Lebanese fold.

2. Intense Arab political action to achieve Lebanese detente, without which there will be no basic solution to the crisis. Without such detente, all efforts will be spent on desperate attempts to patch up the situation, not to return Lebanon to its normal situation under a legitimate Lebanese authority that actually controls the whole of Lebanon.

3. Protection of the Palestinian resistance from any internal or external attempts against its existence. This will foil the Zionist conspiracy to liquidate the armed Palestinian presence.

4. Declaration of a denunciation and condemnation of Israel's belligerence, its attacks on Lebanon and the Palestinian resistance and its attempts to interfere in Lebanon's internal affairs.

With these practical steps, the Arab foreign ministers can save Lebanon and spare the region from the explosion Israel is planning.

MINISTERS RECEIVE TURKISH UNIVERSITY DELEGATION

JN191303 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 May 81

[Excerpts] Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah has said that the Middle East will not know stability unless a just and lasting solution to the Middle East crisis is found on the basis of Israel's comprehensive withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Meeting today with a delegation representing the council of Turkish university presidents, Abu 'Awdah said: Despite its small size and limited resources, Jordan is a major factor in the political moves in the area, because it pursues a moderate and balanced policy aimed at achieving just and honorable peace in the area.

Minister Abu 'Awdah reviewed developments in the Palestinian question and the Arab-Zionist conflict. He said: Zionist political philosophy, which seeks the occupation of more Arab lands and rejects all efforts to achieve just and lasting peace in the area, is responsible for the continuation of this conflict.

Referring to Jordanian-Turkish relations, Abu 'Awdah expressed hope that they will further develop in the interest of both countries.

The head of the Turkish delegation then spoke and praised the wise policy pursued by the Jordanian Government. He said that Jordan is an element of stability in the area. King Husayn's current tour of the Arab countries, he added, is proof of Jordan's persevering efforts to consolidate Arab ranks.

The Turkish delegation was also received by Acting Education Minister Sulayman 'Arar. Addressing the delegation, 'Arar called for more cooperation between the two countries in various fields, especially education and culture.

LIBYAN ENVOY MEETS AL-WAZZAN, OFFERS AIR COVER

Libyan's Comments

NC191028 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 May 81

[Text] At 0930 today Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan received head of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau ('Abd al-Qadir Ghuqah), with whom he discussed the new situation and developments in the Lebanese arena.

(Ghuqah) later said: We had the honor of meeting Prime Minister al-Wazzan, in whom we have great confidence, at this critical phase through which the Arab countries, particularly Lebanon, are passing. We conveyed to him the Jamahiriyah's readiness to participate in defending southern Lebanon. We feel humiliated every time Israel exhibits contentiousness in Lebanon's airspace. He added: I also offered the prime minister to provide Lebanon with complete air cover to defend its territory.

Al-Wazzan's Comments

NC191310 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 May 81

[Excerpts] At 0930 today, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan received member of the Popular Committee of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau ('Abd al-Qadir Ghuqah and discussed with him the current situation and developments in the Lebanese arena.

Later, Prime Minister al-Wazzan was asked: [Begin recording] [Question] Mr Prime Minister, after your meeting today with the representative of the Libyan Jamahiriyah (Ghuqah), what can you say to his offer to supply arms to the south?

[Answer] I thanked the fraternal Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah for its national interest in defending Lebanon and its south. I informed my visitor, (Ghuqah), of the Lebanese position, which had been endorsed at the Arab and Islamic conferences in Tunis and At-Ta'if. This position calls for a unified Arab strategy. Lebanon, which has not hesitated at any time to carry out its Arab responsibilities, and has not spared any sacrifices in this field, is happy to see its Arab brothers move to carry out their duties toward it, particularly in the threatened and afflicted south.

However, in the present stage--as I have said--this must come within the framework of a unified Arab strategy in line with what has been decided by the previous government in Lebanon and adopted by us in our demands from our Arab brothers in accordance with Arab agreements and resolutions.

Lebanon believes in the need to rebuild its Army in a complete national manner. It is now anxious to do that. The government is devoting attention to achieve this rebuilding, even under the obvious difficult conditions. I welcome any Arab assistance to provide arms to the Lebanese Army within the armament plan which must accompany the building of our national army. [end recording]

AL-AS'AD, MINISTERS VIEW SECURITY, ARAB ISSUES

NC191607 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 May 81

[Text] Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies Kamil al-As'ad has stated that the security plan to be put into effect around the Chamber of Deputies has been completed and is ready for implementation. He explained that the internal security forces will take up positions in the buildings around the Chamber of Deputies and along the roads between Sodeco and At-Tayyunah and between Al-Barbir and the Agriculture Ministry. Speaker al-As'ad described the plan as a superivsory and protective plan more than a security plan.

The speaker has called for a meeting of the Chamber of Deputies on 28 May to study the stage budget bill. He has also invited the members of the independent parliamentary bloc to a meeting to be held Thursday morning in the Carlton Hotel to continue discussing the developments in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, Speaker al-As'ad and Ministers as-Sabbah and Babikian affirmed the importance of the Arab role in confronting the challenges facing Lebanon and the Arab world.

Commenting on Algeria's call for an Arab League conference at the foreign ministers level, Speaker al-As'ad said that the present situation demands a meeting of the Arabs at the highest level to put an end to Arab aimlessness and to draw up a specific plan to deal with the Arab crisis in general.

Minister as-Sabbah called on the Arab states to shoulder their national responsibilites toward Lebanon with a unified Arab strategy. He welcomed the convening of an Arab foreign ministers conference, calling for it to be held in Lebanon.

Minister Babikian explained that the Cabinet will tomorrow discuss the subject of an Arab foreign ministers conference. He said that the Arab foreign ministers conference will provide the opportunity to achieve a unified Arab stand on the problems facing Lebanon.

SARKIS MEETS WITH U.S. AMBASSADOR, AL-AS'AD

NC191837 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 May 81

[Text] At 1900 today President Ilyas Sarkis met with the U.S. ambassador to Lebanon, Mr John Gunther Dean, and discussed with him the local, Arab and international situations. At 1800 today President Sarkis met with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Kamil al-As'ad and discussed the current developments in the country.

AL-BIQA' SAM'S REPORTEDLY MOVED TO OTHER SITES

NC200935 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 20 May 81

[Text] In relation to the SAM missiles in Al-Biqa', eyewitnesses have said that the missiles have been moved to other sites.

FREE LEBANON STATEMENT VIEWS SHELLING, SABOTEURS

NC190940 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 19 May 81

[19 May statement by free Lebanon army military spokesman in eastern sector--read by announcer]

[Text] Around 1930 on 18 May the saboteurs began shelling the township of Marj 'Uyun. They then expanded their shelling to include the townships of Al-Qulay'ah, Burj al-Muluk and Dayr Mimas. The sources of fire were in the direction of An-Nabatiyah and Al-'Ayshiyah and the saboteurs used various types of artillery, mortars and rockets. Our forces returned the fire and the exchanges stopped around 2400. Our losses were limited to material things and the aggressors losses are not known.

On the other hand, beginning today the free Lebanon forces will hold the inhabitants of the townships of Ibil as-Saqy and Rashayya al-Fukhkhar responsible for any saboteur infiltration attempt that takes place from their areas toward our areas. Moreover, the free Lebanon military spokesman has asked the inhabitants of Hasbayya to open the water (?mains) to Marj 'Uyun before noon today, expressing the hope that they will not repeat the story of the past or blow it up in the future.

HADDAD COMMENTS ON TROOP DEPLOYMENT, AL-ASAD

NC171600 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 1006 GMT 17 May 81

[17 May speech by free Lebanon Commander Maj Sa'd Haddad--live or recorded]

[Text] Brother Lebanese: I must touch on certain topical issues, particularly since many local and international movements are looming on the horizon.

First, I will begin by addressing a statement to my free Lebanese brothers, particularly mothers and fathers who have sons in the free Lebanon army.

Every citizen in free Lebanon must be a sentry and a soldier because the only option we have is to defend ourselves, and because our enemy is criminal, merciless and only interested in murdering and persecuting honest Lebanese.

Second, anyone who joins the army, even if his salary is meager, can be exposed to danger at any moment. We feel sorry for anyone, even if he is slightly wounded, because we consider everyone as a son, to say nothing of how we feel when someone is martyred.

What has happened so far is not the end; many people will be wounded and perhaps others will be killed. We hope that no one will be injured, but this may happen because the army, as a great contemporary commander said, is not an insurance company. This great commander lost a dear person in the army. Thus, the army is not an insurance company nor a means to make a living. It is a profession of honor, sacrifice, tireless vigilance and hard work to safeguard the homeland and its independence, to regain the occupied land, to expel the invaders and to ensure a bright and honorable future for our sons.

Thus, the families who know that they cannot bear the shocks must remove their sons from the army. I also advise them to leave the area for good because even civilians in their homes are exposed to danger. The saboteurs will not exclude civilian homes from military targets. You know that most of their shelling is aimed against areas that are crowded with civilians. So everyone must decide on his own from the beginning and not later.

I have read a report that the army commander signed an order sending 500 soldiers to southern Lebanon. What a shame! What examples can I give? Beirut is on fire, Zahlah is besieged and diseases attack the people there. Killing, crime, plundering and destruction are rife throughout Lebanon. While Lebanon is under the yoke of Syrian and Palestinian occupation, the so-called legitimate government is preoccupied with sending the army to the south. If the government had a surplus and wanted to send it, then welcome. But, Your Excellency President Sarkis, you are asking Philip Habib and 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam to allow you to station army units on Sannin and around Zahlah. So, it is shameful and not right to tamper with the feelings of the Lebanese people, helpless though they are. As I said before, if they want to come to the south, then welcome, but this constitutes a defiance of the Lebanese people's feelings and pride.

Some of you may ask why? [Words indistinct] Walid Junblatt, Qulaylat, Yasir 'Arafat, Abu Iyad and Abu I do not know what refuse. Alright, this is cogent proof that the army is not (?prepared) yet. How can an army that is not fit for deployment to Beirut, Zahlah or Sannin be fit to be sent to the south? What is the reason? Logic says that if the government wants to extend the legitimate authority and ensure sovereignty, it must start from the heart, not from the tail or limb.

If the army is rejected here, it must be rejected everywhere; if it is accepted here, it must be accepted everywhere. We would very much like to have the army here if they allow it to be deployed in Beirut. Anyway, there are now two regiments in the south; why don't they deploy two regiments in Beirut? We would like to see this. We will be surprised when this farce comes to an end.

Since the army is fighting on the contact lines, it means the army is fighting an enemy. The legitimate authority must support the elements that are fighting on the contact lines with all its resources. If Victor Khuri has 500 soldiers, why not send them to fight on the contact lines? They will do good work.

If the government is not able to do this, it had better keep silent. Moreover, why don't they send the army between the two rivers, where our Shi'ite brothers are being killed in An-Nabatiyah, Habbush, Kafr Tibnit, Dayr az-Zahrani and Tyre? The saboteurs are ruling the Shi'ites by steel and fire and no one is helping them. If the government is truly zealous about Lebanon and the Lebanese, it must send help to our Shi'ite brothers. Why should they suffer alone? [Words indistinct] the saboteurs are making their own laws and imposing them. They order the Shi'ites to hand over this or that man.

What is the role of the legitimate government? The irony is that our Shi'ite brothers have deputies who raise their voices for sending the army to the south to fight Sa'd Haddad and restore sovereignty. But if sovereignty and legitimacy exist in Lebanon, it is here in free Lebanon under Sa'd Haddad. If there is security and reassurance, it is here in free Lebanon. Come and see!

New events have taken place in Lebanon, and our area has become full of people who fled Lebanon and came to free Lebanon. Some 25,000 people have come so far and others are coming, and will come. Welcome to any newcomers. The Lebanese citizen is now convinced that the guarantor of all of Lebanon is free Lebanon. No matter how much they try to [words indistinct] and no matter how much the hirelings try to distort our reputation the facts will shine through clearly. The ideal image of Lebanon, with coexistence among all sects, freedom, democracy and love, now exists only in free Lebanon. Free Lebanon, opens its doors and heart wide to all Lebanese, no matter what their religion color or thinking is. The important thing is to be Lebanese. Even if one had been a party member and abandoned his party, he is still welcome.

I cannot forget to speak about U.S. Envoy Philip Habib's visit. I have already welcomed him. Certainly his visit has greatly benefitted the area and its people--namely, the entire Middle East. It suffices to say that his visit has thus far averted a military confrontation in the area and has shown established facts of interest to us. What interests us is that the president of the republic has asked Philip Habib to negotiate with the Syrians for their withdrawal from the Sannin and Zahlah hills and to lift the siege on Zahlah and to deploy the Lebanese Army there.

What does this mean? It means that the so-called legitimate government does not have any power over the Syrian forces stationed in Lebanon, that they receive their orders directly from Damascus, and that they have, in fact, become occupation forces. Why should they beat around the bush with someone saying that these are forces of the legitimate government or that they have this or that right? These are occupation forces, and we must deal with them accordingly. Sarkis cannot say this in public, but he is saying it in private.

Another proof of this is that when 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam came to Beirut, he went to the Republican Palace, where he behaved as if he were the president, summoning the parties and negotiating with them. He summoned them and negotiated with them. And if they allow the president to attend the meeting, he sits and watches, but is not allowed to give any views. Thus, why should we laugh at each other and cover ourselves with flowery and embellished words?

Now there are certain parties that want this occupation. If they really want the occupation, okay. Let them say they want the Syrian occupation. They, however, must not say that these are legitimate forces. They must say that they want an occupation. They must say that they no longer want Lebanon to be independent but occupied, annexed to Syria, and taking orders from the 'Alawites, and so on.

The second thing that interests us is that when Syria wants something from the world, it torpedoes the situation in Lebanon, kills and displaces people. The only thing Syria wants is to get the world interested and give it what it wants. After the recent great noise, what does Syria want? It has become evident that Syria wants money. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait stopped financing it, so it wants money. Do not say that the Americans are not smart. They are smart and know this. This is why Philip Habib went to Saudi Arabia and asked King Khalid to give money to Syria to solve this problem, the problem of Zahlah, Sannin and the missiles. The problem will definitely be solved. But isn't it wrong to cause this devastation, destruction and killing just for money?

Since he has close relations with the U.S. authorities, Hafiz al-Asad was supposed to talk secretly with the U.S. ambassador and tell him: Let them give me money or else we will do this and that. If Al-Asad lost hope that they would give him money, then he would ignite the situation. He would have saved much for himself and others. Anyway, since the question is one of money and that everything involving the Syrians is solved by money, we ask His Majesty King Khalid to abundantly pay Syria and even negotiate how much it wants to withdraw from Lebanon, pay as much as it wants. Thus, we will resolve the crisis and we, as I have said in the newscast, will consider the funds as a debt and will be ready to pay them off. His majesty the king knows that we fulfill our promises. We pledge to fulfill this promise before the entire world. We will pay off these funds.

We must recall the basic point that has been revealed: the undeclared secret Syrian-Israeli agreement arranged 5 years ago by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Joseph Sisco. The basic point in that agreement provides for Syria's not interfering with any operation that Israel launches against the saboteurs. This means that Syria agreed to the extermination of the saboteurs. We have repeatedly stated this. Certain saboteurs, however, such as Abu az-Za'im had doubts about this issue. He saw abnormal things. The greatest plotter against the saboteurs is their leader Yasir 'Arafat, who is fully aware of this and even received money for this. May God help you, those who are deluded.

Not long ago, Israel struck at the saboteurs in 'Arab Salim, which is within the Syrian operational area. Did you saboteurs see that Syria intervened to support you? When Israel struck at you in Al-Jarmaq and Al-'Ayshiyah, the Syrians withdrew from the area. When Israel launched the Al-Litani River operation, did the Syrians interfere? They withdrew from Az-Zahrani to Beirut and from [words indistinct].

Don't you have any brains? You must have brains and think a little! Shame on you! You may say that the senior Palestinian leaders are taking care of themselves and staying away from the contact lines and that those who fight are hirelings lured by money. But isn't this a crime? This is wrong. You must understand that Syria is using you for its own interests. Sooner or later, Syria will finish you off. Anyway, if you persist in your stubborness and lack of understanding, it means that your end is near and that you will be finished off. We are not warmongers and do not want to harm anyone.

For this reason we freely advise you, just for the sake of God and not because we love you. We advise you for the sake of God and humaneness and because killing, in our view, is evil. We advise you to look for another (?job). You must understand that all that you are doing will achieve nothing. Leave Lebanon, lay down your arms, and anyone who wants to return to the camps as a peaceful person is welcome. Anyone who wants to go abroad, farewell to him. This is the best thing.

Do not expect that your leader 'Arafat or anyone else is working for you. Each of them is working for himself. You all know that over a year ago, his sister bought a restaurant and a hotel in New York. Where did she get the money? Did she buy it with her own money or with her brother's money? He could not buy them in his name, so he bought them in his sister's name.

All the leaders are you. You had better be quiet. They are now working on compulsory recruitment of men between the ages of 16-39. Isn't it a crime to ask a 16-year-old boy to fight? Where are your leaders? Most of them fled abroad. The first of them is a saboteur named Yasir 'Arafat, and he fled abroad. They want 16-year-old boys to fight an organized country like Israel. What does this mean? It means that they want to expedite your destruction. So, do not be deluded by the salaries they are paying you. Do not be deluded. There is no aim in your staying in Lebanon. Syria and your leaders and other Arab countries have exploited you and will continue to exploit you. They all are driving you to your death. Anyone who has not realized this yet after these experiences is not a human being but almost an animal. You will understand this, God willing.

In conclusion, I would like to address a word to Hafiz al-Asad. Your Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, was it necessary to commit these massacres in Lebanon since you have always coordinated your action with the United States, Israel and all those working to establish peace in the Middle East on the basis of Camp David? Why didn't you do as His Excellency President Anwar as-Sadat, who entered into direct negotiations, resolved the issue and established peace between Egypt and Israel? Now that everything has been disclosed, you know that sooner or later you will take this step. However, we would have admired you much more if you had taken it earlier and spared Syria, Lebanon and the Lebanese people a great many tragedies and disasters. We hope that you will move fast. This play is enough and [words indistinct]. Answer Philip Habib and publicly come to the negotiations because your role has been disclosed [words indistinct] and because you are not far away. True, you have signed a treaty with the Soviet Union. We know that your hand is with the Soviet Union but your heart is with the United States. Welcome to you because we are with the United States and for peace too. Stop the massacres, be courageous, do not change your stand and come to the peace negotiations. This is the sound path and you will not make a mistake by following it. So, quickly come to (?Jerusalem) or to any other place for peace because that will be in the service of mankind, the people, the civilians and the Free World. I hope that the massacres will be stopped and all issues solved.

I reassure the Lebanese people and ask them not to be desperate, that the solution is very near, God willing. Lebanon will not be destroyed no matter the hard times or the great dangers surrounding it. Lebanon will emerge from the trouble and will regain its independence, unity, pride, prestige and democracy. May you and free Lebanon live long, sovereign and independent.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES U.S. ENVOY PHILIP HABIB 19 MAY

JN191224 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 19 May 81

[Text] At 1130 today President Hafiz al-Asad received Philip Habib, the U.S. President's envoy. The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Nasir Qaddur, assistant foreign minister; Morris Draper, deputy assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs; and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus. The two sides resumed discussion of the situation in the area.

Departure Report

JN191622 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 19 May 81

[Text] At 1600 today Philip Habib left Damascus at the end of a visit to Syria during which he met with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Nasir Qaddur, assistant foreign minister; Dr Sabah Qabbani, director of the Foreign Ministry's America Department; several ranking Foreign Ministry officials; and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

DAMASCUS CITES BEGIN ON NEED TO ADOPT DECISIONS

JN200511 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 20 May 81

[Text] Occupied Palestine--U.S. President Reagan's Envoy Philip Habib will meet with terrorist Begin this afternoon. Following his meeting with Habib yesterday, Begin said that Israel will call upon the competent bodies to adopt the necessary decisions. He said that it is high time to adopt decisions. He, however, did not elaborate on the nature of these decisions.

DAMASCUS PRESS EXTOLS CONFRONTATION OF ISRAEL

JN200609 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 20 May 81

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Our Stand Strengthens Confrontation and Demonstrates Our Nation's Struggling Face," ATH-THAWRAH says: When Syria declares that it will not allow Israel to continue its aggression and when it daringly and bravely confronts the enemy's adventures and conspiracies, it is fully aware that it is thus fortifying the basic pillars of confrontation, an undertaking that responds to the Arab masses' aspirations in Syria and in the great Arab homeland and that will halt the Zionist arrogance. Overwhelmed by arrogance, the enemy, supported by the United States and the treasonous Camp David accords, thought he was capable of imposing his schemes on the Arab nation by occupying territory, usurping rights and imposing full hegemony over the Arab presence.

Syria's stand represents the nation's conscience and feelings; embodies its free, strong and influential will; and embodies its struggling face, thus dispersing the clouds of despair, capitulation and defeatism. Syria's stand proves this nation's capability to confront the challenges, determine events, interact with the masses' aspirations, strengthen its will and make crucial decisions. This is being manifested by the Arab masses' absolute support for Syria's stand. This is also manifested in the fact that every Arab citizen considers Syria's confrontation of Israel's aggression as his own battle and that Syria's heroic soldiers and eagles are today waging the pan-Arab battle in defense of the land, dignity and honor.

Continuing, ATH-THAWRAH says: The Syrian missiles, which a few days ago downed two Israeli reconnaissance planes over Al-Biqa' and yesterday downed a third enemy reconnaissance plane over Latakia, have wrecked the enemy's delusion and arrogance and destroyed his aggression. These missiles have given material and tangible evidence that Syria will neither retreat from, bargain over nor relinquish the Arab nation's rights and dignity. Proceeding from its principled stand, Syria will determinedly confront Israel and its attacks and the U.S. schemes and plans in the area.

This is Syria's fate for which it will shoulder its burdens with valor and honor. Syria will forge ahead along the road of struggle with confident, clear-cut and defined paces to thwart the imperialist-Zionist aggression and to wrest the Arab victory by liberating the land and restoring the rights. This is Syria's battle, for which Syria is struggling militarily and politically and is intensifying its efforts in the pan-Arab and world arenas. This principled and firm stand has started yielding gains in favor of the Arab nation and masses in the existing confrontation and in the decisive battle between the Arab nation and the Zionist enemy and the imperialist forces supporting him.

Under the headline "On the Independent Decision," TISHRIN says: Syria took the decision to protect Lebanon's airspace, the dignity of the Arabs and the security of the homeland. Those both near and far now know the bases of the Syrian national decision, especially those bases that make it both independent and historical at the same time. Hence, Syria has confused more than one quarter with this decision because the progressive Arab and international support for Syria will establish the centrality of the Syrian role, not only in the Arab-Israeli conflict, but in the affairs of the whole region. This is a situation that does not greatly please the United States and its friends, whatever their colors and degrees may be.

Hence we can deduce, within the (?framework) of the complexities of the present situation, various attempts to circumvent the coming Syrian role or, at the very least, to contain it. However, Syria, under the wise leadership of Struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, knows how to distinguish between what is worthless and what is correct as it knew how to choose the appropriate and essential moment to decide to confuse the calculations of all factions of the front opposed to the Arabs. Herein lies the essence of the independent nationalist decision which Syria took after completing its requirements.

Syria's ability to compensate for the major part of the strategic loss resulting from As-Sadat's defection of Egypt from the nation has become a very important turning point in contemporary Arab history. This has been experienced by those involved in hindering the normal and balanced growth of the abilities of the Arab nationalist liberation movements and those involved in fettering the region for the U.S. White House. They feel this tangibly and are afraid of it. This ability on Syria's part will only be what it actually is--a transition in a procession, a stone in the edifice, and a stand [word indistinct]. This has set apart the independence of the national decision. It is this independence which is provoking the rage of the United States and its friends.

Syria's steadfastness in the face of the imperialist onslaught against the Arab nation, which reached its climax in severing As-Sadat's Egypt from the nation, resisted being undermined from the inside and proudly confronted attempts to undermine it from the outside based on an exhaustive, programmed effort with fixed objectives. The most important bases of these efforts are national unity and the healthy relations woven with brothers and friends. Hence, this steadfastness hails national Syrian action whose activities and opportunities will increase. Syria has no other argument except to be the throbbing heart of Arabism.

CHIEF OF STAFF REPORTEDLY VISITED MOSCOW

NC191238 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1222 GMT 19 May 81

[Text] Beirut, 19 May (MENA)--The Lebanese newspaper AN-NAHAR today reports that Chief of Staff of the Syrian Army Gen Mustafa Talas visited the Soviet capital last week for 24 hours after which he returned to Damascus.

ISRAELI PLANE SHOT DOWN OVER LATAKIA REGION

JN191851 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1848 GMT 19 May 81

[Text] Damascus, 19 May (SANA)--A military spokesman stated this evening that an enemy reconnaissance plane flew over the Latakia region--Syria's coast--at 1523 this afternoon. The spokesman said that the Syrian air defenses intercepted this plane and downed it. It was seen falling in the sea 10 km southwest of Latakia.

ISRAEL SAID TO MASS TROOPS ALONG BORDER STRIP

JN200520 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 20 May 81

[Text] The Zionist enemy continues to reinforce his positions and mass troops along the border strip. The enemy stepped up tension in southern Lebanon yesterday at a time when the Phalangist gangs continued to erupt the security situation in Beirut and its suburbs.

U.S. CARRIERS TO STAY IN EAST MEDITERRANEAN

JN200512 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 20 May 81

[Text] Washington--The U.S. Defense Department spokesman yesterday said that the tense situation in Lebanon dictates that the two U.S. aircraft carriers Independence and Forrestal remain in the eastern Mediterranean.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES TUNISIAN EDUCATION MINISTER

JN181259 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 May 81

[Text] At 1130 today President Hafiz al-Asad received Tunisian National Education Minister Mohamed Frej Chedli. The meeting was attended by the education minister and the Tunisian ambassador in Damascus. During the meeting Mohamed Frej Chedli conveyed President Habib Bourguiba's greetings and those of Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali. He also conveyed a message from President Bourguiba. He asserted Tunisia's pride--that of the people and government--over Syria's steadfast stand and its support for this stand in confronting the Zionist enemy, the enemy of all the Arabs. The talks focused on the relations between Syria and Tunisia and on the situation in the Arab region.

[Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic at 1700 GMT on 19 May adds: "Tunisian National Education Minister Mohamed Frej Chedli and his delegation left Damascus this morning at the end of a 4-day visit to Syria during which he signed an agreement for implementing the program on educational, cultural and scientific cooperation between the two fraternal states."]

HASHEMI-RAFSANJANI MAKES DEPARTURE STATEMENT

JN191707 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1650 GMT 19 May 81

[Text] Damascus, 19 May (SANA)--Mohammad Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Iranian deputy prime minister for political affairs, and the delegation accompanying him left Damascus at 1645 today at the end of a 2-day visit to Syria.

During the visit Hashemi-Rafsanjani delivered a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from Iranian Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i.

The Iranian delegation was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs; Nasir Qaddur, assistant foreign minister; the director of the Foreign Ministry Asia Department; ranking Foreign Ministry officials; Hasan Rohani, ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Syria; and embassy staff.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani reiterated the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for the Syrian Arab people in their struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

In a statement before departure Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic stand in one trench in the common struggle for confronting and foiling all imperialist and Zionist schemes and conspiracies, including capitulatory conspiracies which are embodied by the imperialist and Zionist Camp David conspiracy.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani described the talks he had with President al-Asad and Syrian officials as constructive and fruitful. He added that the good and effective results of the talks will become apparent in the future.

PALESTINIAN COMMUNIST PARTY IN GAZA VOICES SUPPORT

JN191731 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1640 GMT 19 May 81

[Text] Damascus, 19 May (SANA)--The Central Committee of the Palestinian Communist Party in Gaza has stressed its full support for the Syrian Arab people and its denunciation of the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary threats.

In a letter of greetings and support it sent to President Hafiz al-Asad, the Central Committee also reiterated that it stands beside the Syrian Arab people and their leaders against the attempts intended to threaten Syria's security and subjugate it with the purpose of peddling imperialist and Zionist conspiracies and liquidating the Palestinian Arab people's cause.

The Central Committee said that imperialism, Zionism and reactionary forces understand only the logic of force and the firm confrontation of their impudent interferences. Syria possesses huge potentials and is supported by the Arab masses and all the peace- and freedom-loving forces in the world, particularly the socialist bloc with the Soviet Union at its head.

The Central Committee stressed that the party will intensify its struggle against the Zionist occupiers and will continue to wage a wide campaign in the occupied territories in support for the courageous Syrian stand which is defending our Palestinian Arab people, their soil and their sacred national cause.

HABIB-BEGIN MEETING ENDS, TO RECONVENE 20 MAY

TA191933 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 May 81

[Text] The diplomatic effort and the search for peace are continuing. This is what U.S. Envoy Philip Habib said this evening at the end of a 2-hour meeting with the prime minister at his office in the Knesset. The meeting ended only a short time ago. At the end of the meeting, the prime minister said that he would meet Habib again tomorrow. He added that it would be necessary to convene the relevant authoritative institutions in order to make decisions. Here is our political correspondent Elimelekh Ram's report:

[Begin videotape] For the first time since President Reagan's envoy, the U.S. diplomat Philip Habib, began his mission in the area, Israeli political circles expressed the hope--apparently based on good grounds--that we are about to achieve a political settlement of the missile crisis. Philip Habib arrived here following 2 days of talks in the Saudi capital of Riyadh and a meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus today. It is believed that the U.S. envoy has brought proposals to solve the crisis which will be essentially accepted by the parties.

According to these proposals, the Lebanese Army will enter Zalah and replace the Christian Phalangists and the Syrians will evacuate the mountain slopes. According to a Lebanese request, the Syrians will remove the missiles and Israel will refrain from flying over eastern Lebanon, near the Syrian border. It should be noted that these proposals have not been officially confirmed and that these are the beliefs that prevailed today, prior to Habib's arrival in Israel and during the meeting with the prime minister at the Knesset in Jerusalem.

During the 90 minutes, Mr Habib reported to Begin on the talks he held in Saudi Arabia and Syria. The U.S. envoy was not given a reply about Israel's position this evening. The Israeli Cabinet will convene tomorrow morning to receive a report from the prime minister and to formulate a position.

[Begin--in English] Please, my friend, Mr Habib, we will start talking to the ladies and gentlemen of the press.

[Habib--in English] You are all getting used to my style. But, I will say to you--and say it simply and directly--that the diplomatic efforts continue, the search for peace continues. That's really all I have to say in my role. With the prime minister's permission, I will leave the press to you. [words indistinct]

[Begin] Ladies and gentlemen [last three words in English], my dear friends: Tonight I do not have even one moment to reply to questions. Tonight I don't have even 1 second to answer your questions. [last sentence in English]

[Ram] From the prime minister's remarks at the end of the meeting, one may also conclude that, in fact, the time has come for Israel to reply. Does the Israeli Government agree to the proposal submitted by President Reagan's envoy? The reply will most probably be issued tomorrow.

[Begin] First of all, I want to thank our dear friend, Mr Habib, for the wonderful efforts he has been exerting to reach a peaceful solution to the current crisis in the Middle East. True, he informed me about his visits to Riyadh and Damascus and about talks with Saudi representatives and President al-Asad. We will have another meeting tomorrow afternoon and we will continue with this important discussion. I want to reiterate: The man, Mr Philip Habib, has been exerting supreme and very sophisticated efforts to reach a peaceful solution--and we hope this will come true.

Now, I want to say that, as far as we are concerned, now that my colleagues and I--the foreign minister and our aides--have heard Mr Habib's remarks, we must summon the relevant authorities in order to make the relevant decisions.

[Ram] As said, the Cabinet will convene tomorrow morning. In the afternoon the prime minister will convey Israel's position to Philip Habib. Tonight it looks as if a solution is in the offing. [end videotape]

BEGIN REMARKS ON HABIB, EGYPT'S GHALI REPORTED

TA200530 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 May 81

[Text] The Cabinet will convene this morning to hear a report from the prime minister on his conversation with U.S. Envoy Philip Habib. After that, Prime Minister Menahem Begin and Envoy Habib will confer again.

Our political correspondent, Shim'on Schiffer, has learned that so far there is no arrangement for the solution of the missile crisis and the Cabinet will not be asked to make decisions.

Political circles in Jerusalem regard Habib's protracted tour in the region as the only bit of light in the overall darkness in this matter. It appears that the solution for the missile crisis will be part of a comprehensive arrangement regarding Lebanon and will extend over a period of several weeks.

Earlier, it was reported that the U.S. envoy brought with him ideas, the essence of which is the removal of the Syrian missiles from Lebanon according to the Beirut government's request; the removal of the Christian militiamen from Zahlah; and Israeli cessation of combat overflights of Lebanon.

The prime minister praised Philip Habib and said that he has a brilliant mind. Speaking to the attendants of a conference of IDF war veterans in the Jerusalem convention hall, Begin said: We are helping the U.S. emissary to succeed. We do not want war at all, the prime minister noted, but if we are attacked, obviously we will reply in kind.

Mr Begin took advantage of that same occasion to strongly attack the Egyptian minister for foreign affairs, Butrus Ghali, and said that he wants to be more Muslim than Muhammad, despite his Coptic extraction. According to Begin, Ghali contradicted President as-Sadat's statements when he said that whatever the events, the peace process between Israel and Egypt would continue.

At the end of the conversation held last night between the prime minister and the U.S. envoy, Mr Begin said that he must convene the authorized institutions, as he called them, to make the appropriate decisions.

FOREIGN MINISTER SHAMIR ON MISSILE CRISIS

TA191237 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 19 May 81

[Text] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says Israel is not willing to wait for weeks and months for a resolution of the Syrian missile crisis. However, Shamir told reporters: Neither is the situation a matter of days or hours. Speaking in Jerusalem, the foreign minister said the situation will be clearer after the American envoy, Philip Habib, meets again with Prime Minister Begin this evening.

Saudi Involvement in Talks

TA191431 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 19 May 81

[Text] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir made a cautious statement today when asked about Saudi involvement in the talks. He said that if Philip Habib thinks the Saudis can exert a good influence on the Syrians, Israel will know what to tell him. The foreign minister was talking with correspondents after meeting another U.S. envoy, Deputy Secretary of State Michael Sterner, on the setting up of the multinational force in Sinai.

Shamir on Time Factor

TA191807 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 19 May 81

[Text] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that time is an important factor in the missile crisis because as time goes by the Syrians expand their war preparations. Shamir spoke to correspondents while awaiting the beginning of talks with U.S. Envoy Philip Habib.

The foreign minister also referred to reports about the presence of a Libyan unit in Lebanon and said that this strengthened the government's position that Israel's security had been threatened due to the occupation of Lebanon by enemy forces. Everything must be done to fight against this presence, even by means of an operation in Lebanon, Shamir said.

The talk between the prime minister and U.S. Envoy Habib is now underway in Jerusalem.

IDF DENIES DOWNING OF ISRAELI PLANE OVER LATAKIA

TA192008 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2003 GMT 19 May 81

[Text] The IDF spokesman has categorically denied Syria's allegation that it shot down an Israeli reconnaissance plane over Latakia. A Syrian military spokesman said that the plane was seen falling into the sea 10 km southwest of Latakia, at approximately 1530 today. As said, the IDF spokesman denied this report.

PERES 'CONSULTATION' PROPOSAL REJECTED BY MAPAM

TA190948 Jerusalem POST in English 19 May 81 p 2

[Political correspondent Sara Honig report: "MAPAM Opposes Peres' 'Consultation' Proposal"]

[Text] Tel Aviv--Labour Party Chairman Shim'on Peres' suggestion that the government consult informally with the opposition on the Lebanese crisis has met with scathing criticism from Labour's MAPAM Alignment partner.

Peres' proposal came under scathing fire at yesterday's meeting of the MAPAM Central Committee, with all speakers complaining that Peres had not consulted with them prior to making this demand at a hastily convened press conference on Sunday night.

MAPAM Secretary-General Victor Shem Tov complained that his party "had been presented with a fait accompli," but urged the party to distinguish between the "slight" and the issue itself.

MK Haya Grossman, one of MAPAM's candidates for a Cabinet post should the Alignment emerge victorious in the coming elections, argued that "a consultative arrangement will not prevent war, but could in the long run give birth to a government of national unity," which MAPAM opposes.

U.S. ENVOY STERNER ON SINAI FORCE ESTABLISHMENT

TA191239 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 19 May 81

[Text] American diplomat Michael Sterner says it is fair to say that the fundamentals of establishing the Sinai force have now been resolved. After further talks with Israeli officials in Jerusalem today, Sterner added that some points still have to be settled. These include financing and which countries will participate. However, the deputy assistant secretary of state told our reporter, David Essing, that he believes the force will be in place on schedule.

Next week Israel, Egypt and the United States will hold tripartite talks in Egypt. Israel's foreign minister, Yitzhaq Shamir, hopes it will then be possible to sign a draft agreement on the establishment of the force. Sterner went on to say that both Israel and Egypt are proceeding regardless of the situation in Lebanon.

POLL SHOWS NO PREFERENCE FOR FINANCE MINISTER

TA191510 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 May 81 p 7

[Pori poll: "The Majority of the Public Has No Choice for Finance Minister"]

[Text] More than half the population has no choice for finance minister in the next government. In the competition between Yoram Aridor (Likud) and Prof Hayim Ben-Sahhar (Alignment), Mr Aridor got almost double the votes. These are the findings of a country-wide Pori Institute public opinion poll commissioned by MA'ARETZ.

To the question: "Whom would you like to be the finance minister in the new government?" 51.4 percent said they had no preferred candidate, 21.2 wanted Aridor and 11.5 percent wanted to see Ben-Shahar in that post. Those polled could freely mention any candidate they wished.

Former Finance Minister Yiga'el Hurvitz received 5.1 percent of the votes; former Alignment candidate for the post, Ya'aqov Levinson, got 3.9 percent; and the Alignment's candidate for deputy finance minister, Naftali Blumenthal, got 1.4 percent.

Gad Ya'aqobi, Ya'aqov Meridor, Yehezqel Flomin, David Levi, Ammon Rubinstein, Avraham Shavit, Bank Le'umi Director Ernst Yafe, Discount Bank Director General Daniyel Rekanati, Prof Dan Patenkin, Governor of the Bank of Israel Arnon Gafni, businessman Sha'ul Eisenberg and MK's Shmu'el Tamir, Shlomo Lorincz and Flatto-Sharon each received less than 1 percent of the votes.

The support for Aridor came largely from the lower economic strata. People of low income, manual workers with a low educational level, young people and people of Asian and African extraction were those who tended to support him most. The support for Professor Ben-Shahar, on the other hand, came primarily from people of the more soundly-based economic strata, people with higher income, administrative workers, self-employed people, people with a high level of education, adults, veteran citizens of Israel and people of European and American origin.

Some 1,200 people were interviewed in this representative poll. They were polled individually in their homes throughout the country.

ALGERIA

CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT ENDS 18 MAY

Joint Communique Text

LD190858 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 18 May 81

[Text] Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau left Algiers today at the end of his official visit to our country at the invitation of Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and party secretary general. A joint communique was issued at the end of the visit. The following is the text of the communique:

At the invitation of Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the FLN Party, Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau paid an official visit to Algeria 16-18 May 1981. During his stay in Algeria, Mr Trudeau held several talks with President Chadli Bendjedid, basically dealing with the situation in Africa and the Middle East, the prospects of dialogue between the North and the South, and bilateral relations between Algeria and Canada. The talks also dealt with a number of international issues of joint interest. The two sides expressed satisfaction with the development of bilateral relations between Algeria and Canada in recent years; they stressed their determination to see these relations further developed in the future.

The Canadian prime minister expressed his warm thanks to President Chadli Bendjedid for the warm and cordial reception accorded to him during his stay in Algeria. The Canadian prime minister invited the president to pay an official visit to Canada. The president accepted the invitation with gratitude.

Trudeau's Comments

LD182242 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 18 May 81

[Text] A joint communique has just been issued on Canadian Prime Minister Trudea's visit. The text notes that during his stay in Algeria Mr Trudeau held several conversations with President Chadli Bendjedid. The talks were mainly on the situation in Africa, the Middle East, the Persian Gulf, the North-South dialogue and matters between Algeria and Canada. A number of other international matters of mutual interest were also discussed.

The two sides expressed pleasure at the effort made in the sphere of relations between Algeria and Canada in recent years. [Words indistinct] relations were developing even more in the future, they drew up a number of measures [words indistinct].

It must be said that the talks were considered by both sides to be satisfactory. (?This was), moreover, the summation given by Mr Elliott Trudeau, who was replying to the national and international press at hotel [name indistinct].

[Begin Trudeau recording] The results are satisfactory. The talks I had with the president and ministers were satisfactory from the Canadian viewpoint. We discussed bilateral questions, but without spending too much time on them, because these relations are in a good state. Two countries which hardly had any trade with each other 10 years ago have now reached a stage where Canada trades more with Algeria than with any other African country.

With regard to multilateral relations and international questions, we had talks which I found very enlightening and which allowed me to define reciprocal viewpoints and those of the government [as heard]. And we find [words indistinct] on both sides [words indistinct]. [end recording]

The main current international problems were of course discussed during the Algerian-Canadian talks. Mr Trudeau details them for the press:

[Begin recording] Well, yes. In my first talks with President Chadli we talked at length on international problems in general, with emphasis [words indistinct] on the situation on various African countries and the Middle East. For example, we talked about West Africa, Namibia, the Horn of Africa and the situation in the Middle East in general and Lebanon in particular. The situation in this last country was the one which caused the (?greatest) concern.

On international relations, I also had a very long discussion with the foreign minister--very topical for me--on the North-South question and on the philosophy and general aims of Algerian strategy. [words indistinct]

As for myself, I explained the way in which I intend to proceed at the Ottawa economic summit of the industrialized countries. And, again, I told the president and his ministers this morning of certain Canadian initiatives in the sphere of agriculture and energy which are aimed at aiding developing countries [words indistinct].

As you probably know, when discussions were taking place at the United Nations on the preparation of overall negotiations we tried to find a compromise, we sought formulas which would enable the countries of the North and South to reach agreement on the methods of discussion. And we will continue at the North-South summit to try to bring the United States, France, Great Britain and Germany to accept the Canadian viewpoint. I said just now that it (?will) probably be a summit which will be quite difficult, and I do not know which point [words indistinct], but it seems quite clear that overall negotiations will not resume at the United Nations [words indistinct] the active participation of certain countries from the North before the [words indistinct]. Now there are still two stages to get through before we can see if these countries--the United States, Britain and Federal Germany--can accept either the agenda which we drew up last winter [passage indistinct]. [end recording]

MAURITANIA

ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS WITH HAYDALA

Ben Yahia's Comments

LD162134 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 May 81

[Text] Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Ben Yahia, who is on a friendly visit to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, was received at noon today in Nouakchott by Mauritanian head of state Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala. The meeting was attended by Mauritanian Prime Minister Lt Col Maouya Ould Sidi Ahmed Taya, foreign and cooperation minister Capt Dahhan Ould Ahmed Mahmoud and the ambassadors of the two countries in Algiers and Nouakchott.

After his meeting with the Mauritanian head of state, Brother Mohamed Ben Yahia told the press that his talks with President Haydala dealt with the situation in the area and in Africa and also with bilateral relations. He added that viewpoints coincided on all three issues and that relations between the two countries are good. Ben Yahia added: We will endeavor to develop these relations for our common benefit within the framework of the existing friendship between Algeria and Mauritania and also for the benefit of respecting the sovereignty of the two countries.

On arrival at Nouakchott airport Brother Ben Yahia made a short statement to the press in which he recalled that his visit to Mauritania is a friendship visit. He stressed the need to continue contacts between Algeria and Mauritania. He noted that the situation in this part of the area calls for concerting all efforts to strengthen the independence of Mauritania and to create an atmosphere of confidence among the countries of the area.

Concerning his visit to the Ivory Coast and Senegal, he explained that Algeria's African policy is clear and that it is necessary to have constant and continuous contacts with various African countries.

16 May Departure

AB170947 Paris AFP in French 0859 GMT 17 May 81

[Text] Nouakchott, 17 May (AFP)--Mr Mohamed Ben Yahia, the Algerian minister of foreign affairs, expressed satisfaction on Saturday with the talks that he had with Mauritanian officials at the end of an official visit to Nouakchott which lasted a few hours. Mr Ben Yahia, who left the capital in the late afternoon after being received by the Mauritanian head of state, Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, said that their talks were on the situation in the region and on bilateral problems. The minister said that relations between the two countries are excellent.

SUDAN

NUMAYRI CITED ON FOREIGN AID, CONFRONTING LIBYA

LD171504 Hamburg DPA in German 1033 GMT 17 May 81

[By DPA correspondent Peter W. Fischer]

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 17 May (DPA)--Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri has hinted for the first time that he will not shrink from a military confrontation with Libyan invasion troops in Chad. In an interview with DPA published today, Numayri said that he is supporting Al-Qadhdhafi's overthrow. "The objective of our strategy is to get rid of that leader," he said. "We must isolate him in Africa and the world," Numayri said, "and I am doing this through diplomatic means at present. Should direct conflict become necessary...[DPA ellipses] with the so-called Libyan Army, which is really an army of mercenaries, then we shall wage war. Unless they can work out a good logistics plan they will find no food for their soldiers in Chad. They will then try to get food by force from Sudan. Basic foodstuffs are the same throughout the region and Sudan has much of them. This would be a direct reason for us to wage war," Numayri said.

The Sudanese head of state, who called Al-Qadhdhafi a "satellite" of the Soviet Union, said that Libya and the Soviet Union will pursue further objectives in Africa. "I do not believe that they will stop in Chad because their strategy aims at the control of Africa," he said. Numayri mentioned Morocco, Mauritania, Sudan, the Central African Republic, Cameroon, Gabon and Egypt in this connection. He announced that the Libyan invasion of Chad will be a major topic during the visit to Khartoum by Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat on 24 and 25 May.

The president said that the United States will help Sudan build a military infrastructure which "in case of war" would also be available to U.S. troops and other friendly states. "For example, we require good airfirlds. We have no military port on the Red Sea and no suitable barracks in Sudan. We cooperate with the United States so that it can help us build these things. That will take time." Numayri expressed satisfaction with the Reagan administration's decision to provide Sudan with $100 million in military aid. Once this money is used up, Sudan will receive additional funds "and these will be no less than the present amount." Saudi aid is arranged in such a way that Sudan can place orders in Europe and in the United States with Saudi funds.

ETHIOPIA

COPWE, ALGERIAN FLN JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED

LD200512 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 19 May 81 EA

[Text] Ethiopia and Algeria have agreed to develop and strengthen the friendly cooperation and solidarity links between Commission for Organizing the Party of Workers of Ethiopia and the Algerian National Liberation Front [FLN] Party. This was contained in the joint communique released simultaneously in Addis Ababa and Algeria today on the outcome of an official visit to Ethiopia from 12 to 16 May by the delegation of the Algerian FLN Party. The Algerian delegation was led by Comrade Slimane Hoffman, member of the Central Committee and chairman of the Commission for External Relations of the Algerian ruling party.

In the communique, the two sides reaffirmed their active solidarity in the struggle against imperialism, neocolonialism, apartheid and Zionism. They reiterated their adherence to the principles and objectives of the UN, the OAU, and the Nonaligned Movement and condemned expansionist policies and attempts against the unity of states.

ELF ANNOUNCES DOWNING OF PLANE NEAR ASMARA

JN171220 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 May 81

[Text] Asmara--Eritrean Liberation Front [ELF] revolutionaries shot down a military plane belonging to the ruling military regime in Ethiopia last Friday. This was announced by an ELF official in Khartoum. He said that the plane crashed in a mountainous area south of Asmara and that the pilot, who bailed out, was taken prisoner by the revolutionaries.

KENYA

NAIROBI STUDENTS ON PROBATION IN HOME DISTRICTS

LD192008 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 19 May 81 EA

[Excerpt] The Minister for higher education, Mr Joseph Kamotho, has directed that all University of Nairobi students who were ordered to go home yesterday should go back to their respective district where they are required to be reporting to their locational chiefs or dos or the nearest police station every Friday and Monday, starting this coming Friday. The students will further be required to give their university numbers, their students identity card, their faculties and departments and their year of study. The minister said that any future consideration of readmission will depend on the above requirements.

Mr Kamotho said the government is aware that the majority of the students are innocent and law abiding, but he called upon them to cooperate with the government to uncover the few students who, the minister said, are the agitators of the recent disturbances at the campus. Mr Kamotho further directed that the undergraduates should keep off all secondary schools in the country. He warned that any students of the university found in the secondary schools would be arrested and charged.

On the reporting of the students to their chiefs, [word indistinct] and the nearest police stations, the minister said female student undergraduates are exempted from this. Mr Kamotho further directed that no Kenyan student will be allowed to fly out of the country during the current closure of the university. Any students who would like to fly out of the country should be cleared by the office of the president and the Ministry of Higher Education. He said the university will remain closed until a lasting solution is found and the culprits apprehended. The minister said during the closure of the university, postgraduate students will not be required to report to the chiefs in their home areas. Mr Kamotho said Kenyatta University students who are not affected by the closure should continue with their studies as scheduled.

CAMEROON

BORDER INCIDENT WITH NIGERIAN FORCES REPORTED

AB192029 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1830 GMT 19 May 81

[Text] An exchange of gunfire has been reported between our border guards and troops of the Nigerian Armed Forces in Cameroonian territory in Rio del Rey. The incident took place on the morning of Saturday, 16 May. The Cameroonian government has ordered an inquiry into the incident.

AFP Report

AB191447 Paris AFP in French 1424 GMT 19 May 81

[Text] Yaounde, 19 May (AFP)--An exchange of gunfire broke out on 16 May between a Cameroonian boat and Nigerian troops off the mouth of Rio del Rey, the river serving as the boundary between the two countries, in the far southwestern part of Cameroon, an official communique announced here on Tuesday. The incident apparently claimed no victims. According to the communique, which was broadcast by the national radio, the Cameroonian boat was on an official mission in the national maritime waters. The communique says in conclusion that an investigation is underway, but it gives no further details on the circumstances of the incident.

CONGO

COMMUNIQUE ON SASSOU-NGUESSO'S VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA

For the apparent text of the communique, as carried by Belgrade TANJUG, on President Denis Sassou-Nguesso's 11-12 May visit to the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, see the Yugoslavia section of the 14 May Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

ZAIRE

UNTUBE, SUPREME SOVIET DELEGATION HOLD TALKS

AB191948 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 19 May 81

[Text] The first state commissioner, Citizen Nsinga Udjuu Ongwakebi Untube, this afternoon received in audience the delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet, that has been visiting Zaire since 9 May. During its stay in our country, the delegation was able to visit the Bas Zaire region. The Soviet parliamentary delegation and the first state commissioner discussed the possibility of strengthening bilateral relations.

The Soviet parliamentary delegation told the first state commissioner about its impressions following its visit to the country's interior. It indicated that the talks it had during its stay in our country, enabled it to notice that there are several ways to strengthen cooperation in the economic, commercial, scientific and cultural fields. "On which field should be of priority," the leader of the delegation said, "We should wait for the outcome of the meeting of experts to determine the problems [word indistinct]. The leader of the delegation simply (?said) "It is a platform for cooperation".

BENIN

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT END OF KOUNTCHE VISIT

AB152203 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 15 May 81

[Communique issued at the end of Niger President Kountche's visit to Cotonou on 15 May 1981--read by Niger Foreign Minister Daouda Diallo]

[Text] At the invitation of Comrade Mathieu Kerekou, president of the People's Republic of Benin, head of state and president of the National Executive ouncil, His Excellency Col Seyni Kountche, president of the Supreme Military Council and head of state of the Niger Republic, made a friendly, working visit to the People's Republic of Benin on Friday, 15 May 1981. During their visit, the Niger head of state and his delegation were accorded a warm and enthusiastic reception by the people of Benin.

Col Seyni Kountche and President Mathieu Kerekou held private talks in an atmosphere of brotherhood, friendship and mutual understanding. Both leaders expressed satisfaction over the trust between their two peoples, based on their good-neighbor relations and cooperation.

During their talks, the two heads of state thoroughly examined all issues relating to the cooperation between their two countries in every sector.

With regard to the situation in Chad, both leaders reaffirmed the need to find a fair and lasting solution to the problem facing that brotherly country. They pledged their adherence to the establishment of a true and lasting peace through the implementation of the Lagos accords of 28 August 1979 with a view to safeguarding the sovereignty, national unity and territorial integrity of Chad.

With regard to the situation in northwest Africa, both heads of state expressed their great concer over the mounting tension in that region. They reaffirmed the urgent need for a fair a..d peaceful solution to the conflict in Western Sahara on the basis of the rights of the Saharan people to self-determination in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the OAU and the recommendations made by the ad hoc committee set up by the OAU.

With regard to southern Africa, the two leaders strongly condemned the intransigence of the racist minority administration in Pretoria toward the implementation of the decisions of the international community on Namibia. They pledged their total support to the struggle of SWAPO, the only legitimate representative of the Namibian people. The two heads of state energetically condemned the policy of apartheid of the racist South African regime and reiterated their brotherly solidarity with the people of South Africa fighting for the acknowledgement of their fundamental rights to freedom and dignity. They also condemned the criminal aggressions of South Africa against the independent neighboring countries, especially Angola and Mozambique.

With regard to the Middle East, the two leaders expressed their concern over the mounting tension in the region and reiterated their unfledging support for the struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO, their only legitimate representative. In this connection, they stressed that a fair and lasting solution in the Middle East must be general and necessarily include the PLO, provide for the realization of the national rights of the Palestinian people and the complete unconditional withdrawal of Israel's occupation troops from all Arab territories including Jerusalem.

With regard to the economic cooperation among African countries, both leaders expressed satisfaction over the real progress made by the Entente Council and the ECOWAS,of which both countries are members.

They reaffirmed their steadfast adherence to the principle of nonaligment which will make it possible for Third World countries in general, and Africa in particular, to strengthen their national independence and positively contribute to maintaining peace and security in the world as well as establishing a more equitable world order marked by greater solidarity.

At the end of his visit Col Seyni Kountche expressed his admiration for the persevering efforts made by the brotherly people of Benin. Col Seyni Kountche expressed his deep gratitude to his brother and friend, President Mathieu Kerekou, to the National Executive Council and the militant people of Cotonou for the (?unforgettable) and particularly brotherly and friendly reception accorded him and his delegation.

Issued in two French copies in Cotonou on 15 May 1981.

[Signed] for Benin by Mathieu Kerekou, president of the republic, head of state and president of the National Executive Council, and for Niger Republic by Col Seyni Kountche, president of the Supreme Military Council and head of state

KEREKOU CONGRATULATES POLISARIO ON 8TH ANNIVERSARY

AB192103 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 19 May 81

[Text] The Saharan people are today celebrating the eighth anniversary of the establishment of the Polisario Front and the launching of its armed struggle against the Moroccan invaders. On the occasion of this anniversary, our great comrade in struggle, President Mathieu Kerekou, has sent a message of congratulations to Brother Mohamed Abdelaziz, secretary general of the Polisario Front. The message reads as follows:

Comrade and secretary general, dear brother, on the occasion of the eighth anniversary of the creation of the Polisario Front and the launching of the armed struggle of the Saharan people against the invader, it is our militant duty to send to you, on behalf of the Beninese people, the Central Committee and the People's Revolutionary Party of Benin, the National Executive Council and on my own behalf, our warm and militant congratulations. We take this opportunity to reaffirm the unflinching support of the Beninese people to the Saharan people in their just and noble struggle against the expansionist forces. We are convinced that under your intrepid and clear-sighted direction, the Polisario Front will continue to win, as in the past, more military and diplomatic victories for the total and unconditional liberation of its occupied fatherland. While urging you to be more determined in your heroic struggle for the total and unconditional liberation of your fatherland, please accept, comrade secretary general, our best wishes of good health for yourself, of happiness and prosperity for the friendly Saharan people. Highest and militant regards.

[Signed] Mathieu Kerekou, president of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Benin, president of the republic, head of state, president of the National Executive Council.

GHANA

COMMENTARY ATTACKS U.S.-SOUTH AFRICA COLLABORATION

AB191925 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 19 May 81

[Commentary by free lance journalist Camera Duodu]

[Text] The recent visit of the South African foreign minister, Mr Pik Botha, to Washington was by all accounts very successful from the point of view of the South Africans. By agreeing to meet the South African foreign minister, President Ronald Reagan not only ended the long-standing diplomatic isolation of South Africa, but he credited its criminal (?act).

More important, the president sent out signals to the whole world that he endorses South Africa's self-proclaimed role of anticommunist bastion in southern Africa an incumbent and faithful ally of the West in that sensitive region.

So far as black people all over the world are concerned, however, it is not communism that is at issue in southern Africa. The issue is tackling racial oppressions. A minority of white people are using as slaves the black population that outnumbers the white by five to one, and they are using guns to carry out the slavery. They shot the blacks in Sharpeville and Langa and they shot them again in Soweto. They are hanging the leaders of the blacks in Pretoria's jails and killing their bodies and souls slowly in the dungeons of Robin Island. These, as are known to all black men thanks to the shameless way in which Pretoria publicizes its belief that the black man is only worthy of the bullet and the whip.

In addition to oppressing the blacks inside South Africa itself, Pretoria has also annexed by force Namibia, a territory which came into its hands under a clearly understood League of Nations mandate. When the League of Nations collapsed, the United Nations inherited what became known as the trust territories. Each and every one of them has become independent, Togo and Tanzania among them. But where Namibia is concerned, South Africa has defied everyone--the International Court of Justice, the UN Security Council, the UN General Assembly, name it.

For the United States to ignore these horrible facts about South Africa and engage in open diplomatic intercourse with her, on the grounds that South Africa is anticommunist, is to devalue the ideological struggle between East and West and place it on the level of a dangerous (?prop) to racism. There are many blacks who hate both communism and racism. What are they to make of President Reagan's policy?

Already the U.S. administration is talking of a new plan on Namibia. This will revise the UN Namibia program, drawn up under Security Council Resolution 435, under which UN peacekeeping forces, including some from Ghana, would have established a demilitarized zone between SWAPO and the South African forces, and supervised free democratic elections leading to Namibia's independence. This Resolution 435 was not vetoed by the United States, mind you, and for a very good reason too. It was the direct result of protracted negotiations starting from the Kissinger initiative of the late 70's, and ending with the efforts of the former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Andrew Young, and his successor, Donald McHenry.

Now the United States wants to get through its own approved plan and for what reason--simply that Pretoria is afraid of the outcome of free elections in Namibia, supervised by the United Nations. The United States now wants Africa to accept a package of so-called guarantees for the minority whites in Namibia at a preindependence constitutional conference and in pushing this plan, the United States is using armtwisting tactics in assessing that it would wash its hands of the Namibian problem if its plan is not accepted. Meanwhile, it threatens to destablilize Angola by arming UNITA, an organization that has been proved to be heavily dependent on South Africa, both militarily and financially.

Africa ought, therefore, to keep a close eye on the United States and denounce its collaboration with South Africa. There is specially a dangerous possibility that in return for supplying uranium to the U.S. Department of Energy's nuclear processing plant at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, South Africa might get some enriched uranium back to make atomic weapons with. And it should be noted that South Africa has persistently refused to sign the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, an outlaw with a nuclear hand-grenade in its pocket, that is what South Africa can become with American assistance. Now Washington may issue millions of friendly couch words in denial of this but actions speak louder than words and President Ronald Reagan has shaken hands with a representative of the racists.

GUINEA

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED 16 MAY ON SHAGARI VISIT

AB170940 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 17 May 81

[Text] Nigeria and Guinea have called on the United Nations to take concrete and immediate measures to ensure independence for Namibia. The two countries have also urged the world body to assume as a matter of urgency its responsibility as the legal authority to administer the affairs in that country.

This is contained in a communique issued in Conakry yesterday at the end of a 4-day official visit to Guinea by the Nigerian leader, President Shehu Shagari. President Shagari and his Guinean counterpart, President Sekou Toure, denounced the veto power used by the three Western countries at the recent Security Council debate on Namibia and said that the action has further given evidence of their collaboration with the racist regime in South Africa. They noted that the liberation of Namibia and elimination of the apartheid regime were Africa's primary responsibility and urged African nations to take up the challenge. Both leaders also reached agreement on means of enhancing cooperation between their countries in a number of fields.

Early yesterday in Conakry, President Shehu Shagari laid a wreath at the tomb of African heroes, and at a special reception last night, the Nigerian leader was decorated for the Grand Call [as heard] of the Revolutionary Democratic Republic of Guinea. President Shagari has since returned home.

AFP Report

AB171351 Paris AFP in French 1257 GMT 17 May 81

[Text] Dakar, 17 May (AFP)--According to a communique issued at the end of the official visit that the Nigerian head of state, President Shehu Shagari, made to Guinea and Nigeria have reaffirmed their conviction that a just and permanent solution can be found to the Chadian crisis on the basis of recommendations negotiated in the Lagos accords under the auspicies of the OAU.

The communique, which was broadcast on Sunday on Conakry radio monitored in Dakar, added that Presidents Shagari of Nigeria and Sekou Toure of Guinea, expressed their great preoccupation with the persistence of the Chadian crisis and reaffirmed their commitment to the principles of the Organization of African Unity and the UN Charter concerning territorial integrity of sovereign states.

The two heads of state, the communique goes on to say, launched an appeal to the OAU ad hoc Committee on Western Sahara to pursue its efforts towards finding an acceptable solution to that painful problem.

The two presidents also expressed their deep preoccupation with the issue of Namibia's independence and they noted the need for African states to assume their responsibilities toward the Namibian people who are fighting under the leadership of SWAPO, their sole and authentic representative.

The communique also adds that the two statesmen condemned the recent Israeli raids on Lebanon which they considered a threat to security, peace and territorial integrity in that region. They reaffirmed their conviction that a just and lasting solution would only be possible in the Middle East with the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The two presidents reaffirmed their support for the West African economic bodies, that is [words indistinct], ECOWAS (composed of 16 member states) and the Niger River Basin Authority and they underlined the great solidarity which is growing between the states belonging to these organizations. According to the communique, they considered that these bodies were the perfect answer to the objectives of the Lagos plan of action of April 1980 for the creation of the African Economic community.

Finally, the communique says, the two heads of state called on all African states as well as Third World countries to harmonize their efforts towards achieving equality in international trade.

Concerning bilateral issues, Guinea and Nigeria decided to diversify and strengthen their cooperation and the Nigerian head of state invited President Sekou Toure of Guinea to make a state and friendly visit to Nigeria soon.

IVORY COAST

KOUNTCHE DEPARTS AFTER TALKS WITH HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY

AB151346 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 15 May 81

[Excerpts] President Seyni Kountche, the president of Niger, has ended his visit to Yamoussoukro. He left the native village of the head of state, President Houphouet-Boigny, this morning at 1000. The Niger head of state did not make any statement before leaving for Niamey, but it is obvious that he left Yamoussoukro confident in and satisfied with the outcome of the talks he held with his host. At the luncheon, the private meeting and the dinner held yesterday, Presidents Seyni Kountche and Houphouet-Boigny examined all problems related to cooperation between their two countries on one hand, and to cooperation between member countries of the Entente Council, the West African Economic Community and ECOWAS, to which they both belong, on the other hand.

Niger, an agricultural country which also produces a considerable amount of uranium and the Ivory Coast, a coffee and cocoa-producing country, are, like the majority of African countries, faced with the same problem of outlets and prices in the world market. President Kountche stressed this fact on his arrival in our country yesterday. In Yamoussoukro it is certain that Niger and the Ivory Coast adopted a common stand toward consumers, and this in spite of the difference in the nature of the raw materials produced by both countries.

This desire for solidarity and consultations between African countries is enhanced by the fact that on his way back to Niamey, the president of the Republic of Niger, Lt Col Seyni Kountche, will stop over in Cotonou in Benin--this other member country of the Entente Council--where he will certainly inform President Kerekou of the outcome of the talks he has just held with his elder brother, President Felix Houphouet-Boigny.

AFP Report

AB160810 Paris AFP in French 1737 GMT 15 May 81

[excerpt] Abidjan, 15 May (AFP)--Niger President Seyni Kountche's 24-hour visit to Yamoussoukro from Thursday to Friday before his visit to Benin permitted him to discuss with Ivorian President Houphouet-Boigny his concern for Libyan expansionism in West Africa, it was learned in Abidjan on Friday from a good source. The two presidents on Thursday evening had a long meeting during which they discussed at length problems of security in Africa in light of the recent developments in Chad and Western Sahara. Observers note that President Kountche did not hide his preoccupation with the security of Niger, which has common borders with Libya and Chad.

NIGERIA

OFFICIALS REACT TO CAMEROONIAN BORDER INCIDENT

AB191534 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 19 May 81

[Excerpt] Nigeria has warned that it will be forced to fight back if Cameroon failed to seek an amicable solution to the current dispute between the two countries. The minister of external affairs, Professor Ishaya Audu, told newsmen in Lagos today that Nigeria had been pushed to the wall for a long time and hoped that the Cameroonian Government will see reason and settle the matter amicably since it will not be in that country's interest to take on Nigeria militarily.

Cameroon Statements Cited

AB200939 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 20 May 81

[Text] Authorities in Cameroon said they have ordered an investigation into the killing of five Nigerian soldiers at the border of the two countries. An official statement released yesterday said the incident took place at Akai Ate River on Saturday. The statement, however, did not give reasons for the action. Meanwhile, the Nigerian Government has given Cameroon within 1 week to make an unqualified apology for the killing. The country's minister of external affairs, Prof Ishaya Audu, also said that the matter had been reported to the OAU.

SIERRA LEONE

STEVENS RETURNS FROM CHINA, ANNOUNCES CHAD SUMMIT

AB200604 Freetown Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 19 May 81

[Excerpt] The president, Dr Siaka Stevens, was officially welcomed home this morning following his return from official visits to the People's Republic of China and the Libyan Jamahiriyah. Speaking during the ceremony at State House, President Stevens said that his visit to China, which he described as interesting, was to renew the relationship between the two countries in the light of political and other developments he has recalled since his last visit there, 7 years ago and to review China's development aid program to this country. He disclosed that though China was in the state of [word indistinct] and readjustment, they were assuredly walking on the philosphy of the late Chairman Mao Zedong. President Stevens registered his impression about the present developments taking place in that country and said that the visit also afforded farmers who were included in his delegation the opportunity to gain an insight into Chinese farming and poultry methods. He added that government hopes to conclude an agreement for Sierra Leonean farmers to go to China for periodic visits in order to learn Chinese methods in agriculture.

On his visit to Libyan Jamahiriyah at the invitation of President al-Qadhdhafi, Dr Stevens said it was timely, since as chairman of the OAU, he would be submitting a report on the Chadian and Western Saharan problem to the next summit of the organization.

After an exchange of views, he went on, the Libyan leader agreed to join other African heads of state at Ndjamena on Thursday to discuss the Chadian problem. President Stevens, however, pointed out that though the Libyans have undertaken a considerable amount of work to halt the civil war, it was necessary for the warring factions to meet in order to work out a formula for the withdrawal of the troops and the election of a national government for all the people of Chad. A national president and nationally elected and constituted government of Chad will receive [words indistinct] another African country, he added.

[Paris AFP in French at 1208 GMT on 19 May reports: The minisummit on Chad, which should have taken place yesterday in Ndjamena, has been postponed, it was learned from informed sources in the Chadian capital.]

On the problem of Western Sahara, President Stevens said that the people seem to have qualified for the membership with the OAU but it was the discretion of the organization to make pronouncements on the matter. He expressed the hope that the differences in Africa will soon be settled without the attraction of foreign spheres of influence.

President Stevens mentioned among other international matters, the problem of Ireland, which he said should be solved in order to stop the killing and sufferings of innocent people and described the recent attack on Pope John Paul II as incomprehensible. He also spoke of the need for the interdependence among nations and called for cooperation in the fight against spiraling terrorism.